

Good News from Grace

January 2025

Our Purpose

The purpose of our church is to make a difference by serving others through God's love and our faith.



So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!
-2 Corinthians 5:17

As we enter into the New Year, many of us will embark on New Year's Resolutions. And many of us will give those resolutions a solid 3 months until we inevitably give up. For those of you who do indeed stick with your New Year's Resolutions, the rest of us envy you! According to multiple studies that I found on Google, about 90 percent of people give up on their resolutions. That is quite a lot of us who give up on bettering ourselves! But let's be honest, changing old habits is really really hard. But luckily, when God decides to make a change, God sticks to it! When God decided to end the devastating effects of sin on our souls and eternal salvation, that resolution of forgiveness and reconciliation lasts forever! Thank goodness God is in that 10 percent who upholds their resolutions! But in all seriousness, when we were baptized, or when we decide to become baptize, we are making a statement to God and to the church community, that we accept God's resolution of forgiveness of sins and reconciliation. When we enter into baptism, we are given a new creation, a creation that cannot be taken away or forgotten about or given up on. When we are baptized, we are saying yes to God and God does not forget that! God has so much love for creation that God never gives up on us and we can be confident that God's New Year's Resolution won't be given up on. God chose us, even in our darkest of hours and showed us love. I encourage us all this New

Years, to make our New Year's Resolution a recommitment to our Baptism. In which I mean, a resolution that says; "I will love myself as much as God loves me, I will love my neighbor as much as God loves them, and I will love creation as much as God loves creation." Let us love, like God loves, and see this resolution grow into something more beautiful than we could ever imagine. Rest assured, that even if our resolutions might go unfulfilled, God's resolutions are always fulfilled, and God's promises are trustworthy and true. Happy New Year everyone!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Chad Butz

Annual Budget Congregational Meeting

January 26, 2025

10:30am in-person only



Commit to a tithe in 2025

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” -Malachi 3:10

Not everybody can tithe, and not everybody necessarily should tithe – that is, to give 10 percent of their income to God. But there are many who could and probably should. It would benefit them and God’s work.

For centuries, tithing has been a biblical benchmark for faithful giving. Through the prophet Malachi, God goes so far as to challenge faithful people to “put me to the test” by tithing, to then receive overflowing blessings.

Though any suggestion is to be avoided that tithing is a way to get rich, as the “prosperity gospel” preachers assert, longtime tithers say they have experienced God’s blessings as contentment, joy-in-giving, and sufficiency. I myself have been a tither for more than 20 years. It continues to be a source of strength.

For most people, tithing represents an impossible sudden jump in giving. If that’s your situation, you could commit to a tithe in 2025, then work up to it over the years. How? Here are some steps:

Calculate the percentage of your income that you gave to the church in 2024. (Start with after-tax income. Down the road you can always jump to tithing gross income.)

For 2025, increase giving by 1 percent, 2 percent ... or whatever you’re comfortable with.

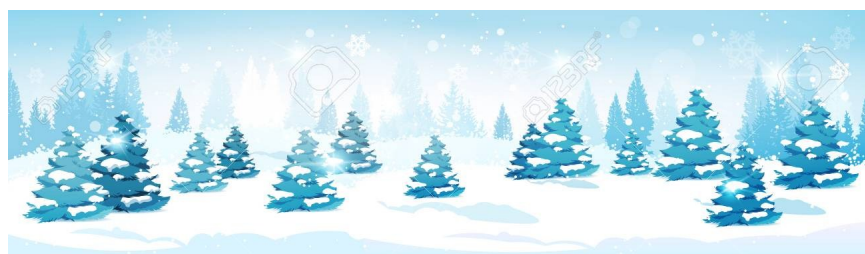
Then, every year increase by another 1 percent. Eventually, you’ll be at a tithe for your after-tax income. If it is a good experience, continue until you have tithed your gross income.

But the important step is the first one: Commit to tithing. You and your congregation will be blessed for it.

--Robert Blezard

Copyright © 2025, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission. Rob Blezard is web editor for the Stewardship of Life Institute and pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD.

[Click here](#) for a complete and up-to-date bio for Pastor Blezard.



Join us for Worship!
Saturdays at 5:00PM
Sundays at 9:30AM
 or
[via Live Stream](#)

Faith Formation
Sundays at 10:45am
September to May

Lost & Found



Lost & Found

Don't forget to check the Lost & Found tub & coat rack in the Library if you are

missing items.

Grace will hold the items for one month. If they are not claimed by then the items will be donated. Unable to stop in then call the office (717-737-0439) and we'll look for you.



Grace's Senior Helpers

Grace's Senior Helpers are here to get you where you need to go.

Contact the church

office Monday - Thursday from 8am - 12noon by phone

717-737-0439 or by email office@gracecamphill.org for a list of members who are available to drive you.

If you wish to become a Senior Helper contact the church office.

This Month at Grace...

The Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship for **January** is given by Brian & Lori Small in honor of their granddaughter, Zoe's 8th birthday.

The Special Benevolence Offering for **January** is **The Giving Pantry.**

To contribute please list the dollar amount next to *Special Offering Ministry* and write your choice under comments.

2025 Sponsorship Opportunities

Changes to Altar Flower Sponsorships

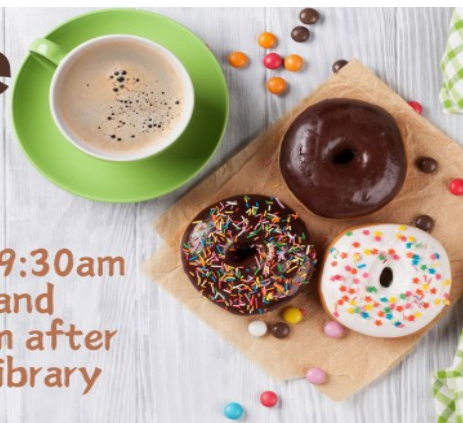
Starting January 1, 2025 fresh flowers will only be purchased for the Altar if that Sunday is sponsored. You can sign up to sponsor any Sunday throughout the year on the bulletin board by the elevator or by contacting Diane in the church office.

All Altar Flower sponsorship requests **must** be received two weeks prior to the date you wish to sponsor.

Altar flowers will remain at \$45, Bulletin & Mailing sponsorships remain at \$30 and the Sanctuary Lamp sponsorships remain at \$21. All sponsorship can be paid for online, by mail, or dropping an envelope in the offering at a worship service.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see available dates for 2025. If you are interested in sponsoring one of these weeks you can either sign up on the bulletin board across from the elevator or contact Diane in the church office at 717-737-0439 x15 or ddeppen@gracecamphill.org.

Coffee Hour



Sundays 9:00 - 9:30am
before worship and
10:30 - 11:00am after
worship in the Library



Prayer List Additions

Everyone appreciates prayer but not everyone wishes to be added to the “out loud” prayers. If you are aware of a member of Grace who could benefit from being added to the prayers, please let the pastor know. He will contact the individual to find out whether they wish to be added to the “out loud” prayers, ongoing prayers or prayed for “quietly” by the Community Prayer Group.

We hold in prayer especially this week...

Bruce Hafer, N. Harris, Jessica Ambrose, Tammy Blauvelt, Tracey Alfano-Douty, Shannon, Sabita & Vinita Aidipatti, The Runkle Family, Dean Jury, and Austin Snaveley (Active Military).

We hold in ongoing prayer...

Nancy Whitcomb, Rebecca Westenberger, Susan Atwood, Bob Heintzelman, Pete Psychogis, Deb Overly, Matthew Riegel, Eugenia Hobday, David Hobday, Todd Stuckey, Kenny Comrey, Beverly Earhart, Sheri Snyder, Kevin Wright, Jeff Turner, Rose Keller, Paul & Linda Glance, Kay King, and Justin Minnich.

We also hold our homebound in prayer:

Betty Bennett, Gladys Cline, Joan Harman, Frank Hills, Sis Hoffman, Howard Lauver, Lou Lore, Patti Reed, Bob Rhodes, Mary Louise Shetter, Dorothy Shreffler, and Sandy Yetter.

Praying for our Homebound Members

The pastoral staff wishes to lift up this special group of members on a regular basis during the prayers. Each week, a group of homebound members will be included in the out loud prayers.

Prayer List Policy

...sometimes we forget to tell others that someone has healed...

Let's be good stewards of our prayer list. If someone has healed, or if someone has moved on to eternal life, please let the church office know. Names will automatically be moved to the ongoing prayers after a month on the weekly prayers, which are read out loud during worship. They will then be removed from the ongoing prayers after another month unless you let us know to keep praying.

For Pastoral Assistance or At Home Communion

Please contact Pastor Chad (717-737-0439 x10 or pastorchad@gracecamphill.org). If you have a pastoral emergency outside of normal working hours you can contact Pastor Chad on his mobile phone at 610-297-2514. A pastoral emergency would be a death, or life threatening circumstances.

"God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer."
- Mother Teresa

Faith Formation Children & Youth

September - May

Sundays 10:45 - 11:30am

Our Faith Formation program for Children & Youth is held Sundays September - May after worship at 10:45am. Classes will be provided for K, 1st & 2nd grades, JYG (3rd - 5th grades) and a combined middle school & high school class. Faith Formation explores topics related to major bible stories. We always read the scripture and do a hands on craft or activity.

Sunday, January 5

Faith Formation by age group

Sunday, January 19

Faith Formation by age group

To see the complete Fall schedule go to <https://www.gracecamphill.org/youth-and-children>

Confirmation Class

Confirmation is a two year program. Confirmands may join at any point of the year, but we will ask that each confirmand complete two complete years of education. Confirmands will meet with a clergy member or spiritual leader at least once a month. Confirmation Camp is heavily encouraged, but not required. Confirmation is open to those entering 7th or 8th grade. Any questions contact Pastor Chad at pastorchad@gracecamphill.org.

Sunday, January 12

Confirmation at Grace

Faith Formation for Adults

We will meet approximately twice a month on Sunday mornings in the Conference Room. We will be discussing the book "Seculosity" by David Zahl. It discusses how Career, Parenting, Technology, Food, Politics and Romance became our new religion, and what to do about it.

Sunday, January 5

Faith Formation

Sunday, January 19

Faith Formation

Tuesday Bible Study

Bible Study resumes on **Tuesday, January 7th**. Every Tuesday at 1pm in the Library. We will be diving into the scripture readings of the Revised Common Lectionary.

Pub Theology

Pub Theology is starting! Our first meeting will be **Tuesday, January 28th** and we will meet monthly. Please keep an eye on your email, Pastor Chad will provide a location and time as it gets closer. If you would like to be kept in the loop of topics and locations, please inform Pastor Chad and provide him your email address.



Grace Youth Group (GYG)

What is Grace Youth Group?

Grace Youth Group is a place where relationships are relished by fellowship, service, worship and prayer. It is a place where youth can be themselves and be not only accepted but challenged to grow in what God is calling them to do. In this loving environment, youth will grow towards seeing Christ in one another and discerning His place in their daily lives.

DATE	EVENT
Jan. 3-5, 2025	Winterfest at Wyndham Hotel in Lancaster

Upcoming GYG Events

Youth grades 9-12 are invited to celebrate the New Year at the synod wide event, Winterfest. This year's theme is "Fingerprints". The event will be held January 3 - 5, once again at the Wyndham resort in Lancaster. The weekend includes faith formation small group lessons, large group worship, fellowship and community time with youth from throughout the synod. And, of course, our very own DJ Andy will be spinning the tunes once again Saturday night for the Winterfest Dance. This is one of our "mountain top" events for the year that you don't want to miss.

Kirsten & Andy Hyatt

Youth Food Cards

Help support the Youth at Grace by purchasing a Karns, Weis and Giant grocery cards in the dollar amounts of \$25, \$50, and \$100 from the church office Monday - Thursday from 8am - 12noon.

If paying with cash please have exact change. Checks should be made to GELC.

Grace Tech Ministry Update

Grace Tech Ministries



The committee's responsibility is to continuously evaluate technology within the church. Since this is a large endeavor and requires more people than just the committee, any comments, suggestions or thoughts are welcomed from the congregation.

Please consider financially supporting tech improvements by contributing to "Grace Tech Ministry" [online](#), by mail or dropping in the offering at a worship service. You can also provide

suggestions or feedback to Bryan Weber at bweber98@hotmail.com.

Bryan Weber

From the Church Council



Council Actions November 2024

1. Date for the Congregational Meeting was set for January 26, 2025, following the 9:30 service.
2. Search for new Youth Leader has been advertised and is ongoing.
3. Work on the flooding repair will soon be finished. The church received a \$5,000 donation to help offset the cost.
4. The feasibility of installing automatic door openers at the parking lot door is being studied.
5. A homecoming service for our college students is planned for December 1.
6. The Treasurer's Report was approved and council discussed possible avenues to cut back on operating expenses.
7. It was decided to include a Kentland Committee in the Grace Assets Task Force to help with and oversee the Kentland management.

FROM THE TREASURER



Members and Friends of Grace,

Council is actively working on the 2025 budget. Meanwhile, the 2025 pledge cards were distributed and we anxiously await their return! Thank you for pledging.

The organ fund is currently at a -\$1,238.69, so thank you for helping us inch closer to finally funding that project in full.

January 19 is the Sunday prior to our annual fiscal meeting. I will share some big picture fiscal information at the beginning of the service. I will also be available before and after the service to answer questions. You can also ask me questions anytime!
Email: susanedickinson@yahoo.com.

Susan Dickinson
Treasurer

Grace Lutheran Church thru November 2024





We hope your Christmas season was filled with blessings, and we wish you a joyful New Year! We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to Karen Jury, Bonnie Barton, and Carolyn Houck for sharing their musical gifts, which have greatly enriched our Saturday Sabbath services.

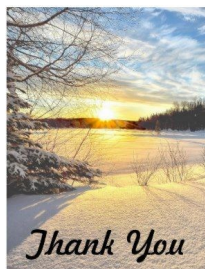
We are also extremely thankful to the Hoff Fund for their generous sponsorship of the St. Paul's Brass Ensemble during our Advent service on December 15th. Their support has greatly enhanced our worship experience through these talented community musicians.

A special thank you is also in order for our bells and choir members, whose dedication and hard work during the Advent and Christmas seasons have been invaluable. We truly appreciate their passion, commitment, and preparation for the music ministries at Grace. It's been a joy to work with both ensembles, and we feel truly blessed to share these musical moments with you. Thank you to our Jazz Combo musicians (Joel Ryder, Pastor Chad, Liam Camasi, Scott Swartzell, and Noah Musselman) who played at our 7:00pm Christmas Eve service! Thank you to brass ensemble musicians (Addie Weber, Zach Weber, Hailey Weber, and Jillian Galle) who played at the Christmas Eve Late service. Thank you to all musicians who contributed to our prelude music and background music during communion at the Christmas Eve Late service! Finally, we would like to thank all of our youth musicians who participated in the 4:00pm Family Service pageant and special music!

As we move forward into Epiphany, Lent and look ahead to Easter, we're excited about the opportunity to make more beautiful music together. Let's continue to use our collective talents to enrich our worship experience! If you or someone you know is interested in joining either of these ensembles, please don't hesitate to contact us at k.e.hartman11@gmail.com. We offer a Bell Choir ensemble that rehearses at 6:15pm on Thursday Evenings, and a Choir that rehearses at 7:00pm on Thursday evenings.

Blessings,

Kris and Emily Hartman



The Runkle family wanted to reach out to thank you for the cards, thoughts and especially prayers for us during these many months. God is good and certainly has heard you as evident by his faithfulness, love, and care.

Mom (Jennifer) came through her pancreatic cancer surgery with flying colors, has had a port implanted in her chest and is preparing for 6 months of chemo. The first treatment will be December 19th.

Dad (Donald) is preparing for a hospital procedure on December 17th, and we anticipate his surgery to follow soon thereafter. With

some changes to medications and life activities we have been able to stabilize his blood pressure. Again, all very good things and we are hopeful for the future.

We humbly ask for continued faithful prayer as this is what is sustaining our family.

Our love, deepest gratitude, and request to God to see your faithfulness and bless you richly.

Thank you,

Collette



FINANCE &
STEWARDSHIP

Review of Grace Church's Finances

In September the Finance/Stewardship Ministry organized a committee to undertake the review of the church's finances. The objective was to review income, expenses, credit card usage, food card sales, and financial reporting for the fiscal year 2023. As a result of the audit it was determined all processes were being properly followed and all financial data could be reconciled.

The ministry thanks the following volunteers for their time and efforts during the past three months in conducting the review. They are Linda Lippert, Ted Evans, Dave Lebo, Don Barlup and Bill Robison.

The ministry also acknowledges and thanks church employees Chris Jury and Diane Deppen for their time, effort and cooperation during the review.

Bill Robison
Chair

Stewardship Pledge Update for 2025

As of Tuesday December 10, the number of pledges received for 2025 stood at 62. In comparison, last year's pledges to Grace totaled 76 pledges. The goal for this year is 100 pledges. Considering that over 400 letters and pledge forms were mailed to members in October the goal of 100 would appear achievable.

Why do we want pledges? The people who develop the budget for Grace Church would like to know the financial support available to help Grace achieve its mission here, in the community, and around the world.

To those of you who have pledged, the Finance/Stewardship Ministry thanks you. For those of you who have yet to pledge, we ask you to prayerfully consider pledging in support of our mission.

Bill Robison
Chair

The Community Meal at Grace



2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month

The Community Meal
2nd & 4th Wednesday
each month from
5:30 - 6:30pm
in the Social Hall.

January 8 & 22

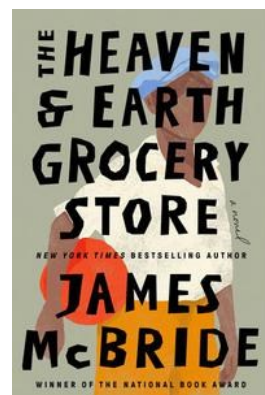
More information at
<https://www.gracecamphill.org/service>



Grace's Book Club has selected to read "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride for their first meeting in 2025 on January 27.

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows.

Chicken Hill was where Moshe and Chona Ludlow lived when Moshe integrated his theater and where Chona ran the Heaven & Earth Grocery Store. When the state came looking for a deaf boy to institutionalize him, it was Chona and Nate Timblin, the Black janitor at Moshe's theater and the unofficial leader of the Black community on Chicken Hill, who worked together to keep the boy safe. As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins of white, Christian America struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community--heaven and earth--that sustain us. Bringing his masterly storytelling skills and his deep faith in humanity to *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, James McBride has written a novel as compassionate as *Deacon King Kong* and as inventive as *The Good Lord Bird*.



About the Author

James McBride is a native New Yorker and a graduate of New York City public schools. He studied composition at The Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio and received his Masters in Journalism from Columbia University in New York at age 22. He holds several honorary doctorates and is currently a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University. He is married with three children. He lives in Pennsylvania and New York.

James McBride is a former staff writer for *The Washington Post*, *People Magazine*, and *The Boston Globe*. His work has also appeared in *Essence*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The New York Times*. His April, 2007 *National Geographic* story entitled "Hip Hop Planet" is considered a respected treatise on African American music and culture.

As a musician, he has written songs (music and lyrics) for Anita Baker, Grover Washington Jr., and Gary Burton, among others. He served as a tenor saxophone sideman for jazz legend Little Jimmy Scott. He is the recipient of several awards for his work as a composer in musical theater including the Stephen Sondheim Award and the Richard Rodgers Foundation Horizon Award. His "Riffin' and Pontificatin' " Tour, a nationwide tour of high schools and colleges promoting reading through jazz, was captured in a 2003 Comcast documentary. He has been featured on national radio and television programs in America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand.

"A murder mystery locked inside a Great American Novel . . . Charming, smart, heart-blistering, and heart-healing." —Danez Smith, *The New York Times Book Review*

Join the book club on **Monday, January 27 at 7pm via Zoom** to discuss this book.

[CLICK HERE](#) for login information.



Lay Eucharistic Ministry

Several years ago, as Jeff and I transitioned into the role of "empty nesters," I sought a new avenue to engage with the community at Grace. It was during this time that Pastor Evan approached me and inquired about my interest in joining the Lay Eucharistic Ministry Team. Initially, I hesitated, contemplating, "What qualifies me to administer Communion to the members of Grace?" However, after receiving ample encouragement, I consented to participate in the training conducted by Pastor Evan. Following the training, I accompanied a close friend on several "training visits," during which I came to appreciate the significance and depth of this ministry. Consequently, I agreed to join the team of Grace members who make monthly visits to those unable to attend church services in person.

Our team currently consists of nine members from Grace. We assist Pastor Chad in conducting monthly visits to our shut-in members. Over the years, we have forged meaningful friendships with those we visit. While our visits hold great importance for the individuals receiving them, the impact on each of us involved is equally profound. Personally, I eagerly anticipate my monthly visits, as I have gained invaluable insights from the wise and devoted members of our congregation.

Should you be interested in participating in this impactful and meaningful ministry, please do not hesitate to contact Sue Painter at 717-319-4682 or via email at 1992Painter@gmail.com, or you may call the church office. Additionally, if you or someone you know within the Grace community would benefit from visits from the Lay Eucharistic Ministry Team, kindly inform Pastor Chad or Sue Painter, so we can ensure they are included in our visitation schedule.

God's Peace,
Sue Painter

Grace's Office will be closed on the following dates so the staff may spend time with family:

Wed. January 1, 2025.

Pastor Chad will be off
Jan. 2 -3, 2025.

If you have a pastoral emergency you can contact Pastor Chad on his mobile phone at 610-297-2514. A pastoral emergency would be a death, or life threatening circumstances.



***The Giving
Pantry will be
closed on Wed.
January 1,
2025***



Let's Celebrate some Monumental Birthdays!

Gladys Cline turns **100 years old** on **January 10**. Please take a moment to wish her a happy birthday with a telephone call or mail a card to:

153 Logan Road
Room 208
Dillsburg, PA 17019

Let her know you are thinking of them on these very special occasions.

1/1 Ben Walker
1/2 Claudio Carvalhaes
1/3 G. Robert Little
1/4 Mike Hartman
Anna Stopfel
Brigitte Storey
1/6 Elena Ryerson
1/8 Alton Hughes
Sue Kaufmann
1/10 Gladys Cline
1/11 Sarah Smith
1/12 Chris Jury
Karen Jury
1/13 Jen Graf
1/14 Wilson Castillo
Kayden Hall
Krystal Hall
Madelyn Kase
Russ Weber
1/15 Sharon Statler
1/16 Edward Hurst
George B. Osswald

1/18 Steve Flook
Linda Shields
1/19 Chaney Helman
Caitlyn Robison
1/20 Gabe Angus
1/22 Barry Hoover
1/23 Michael Morrow
Collette Runkle
Lisa Shenck
1/25 Claire Seeger
1/26 Vicki Whitcomb
1/27 Robert Gill
1/28 Lynn Budzinski
1/31 Bonnie Barton



UPCOMING EVENTS

Teddy Bear & Friends Day

January 4 | 11am - 3pm | ZooAmerica North American Wildlife Park (201 Park Avenue Hershey)

Join us for fun teddy bear related activities. Kids 12 and under may bring along a favorite stuffed animal to ZooAmerica® and participate in a mock “vet clinic” with their teddy bear. Bring them for a wellness check or to have their wear and tear repaired, and stay for a fun-filled visit to the Zoo!

Chicken & Waffles

January 19 | 12 - 2pm | FREE | Camp Nawakwa (1033 Nawakwa Road, Biglerville)

Join Nawakwa for a cozy Chicken & Waffles meal. Enjoy delicious homemade food and outdoor winter fun - bring your sled if there's snow! A free-will offering supports the camp, and RSVPs are encouraged. Perfect for a family outing or a relaxing afternoon with friends in a beautiful winter setting. Please [RSVP](#) or call 717-677-8211.

Winter Fun Day

January 19 | 1– 5pm | FREE | Camp Kirchenwald (1 Cut Off Road, Lebanon)

Experience Winter Fun Day at Kirchenwald. Bring your family or youth group for a winter adventure. Enjoy tobogganing on Kirchenwald's award-winning run, ice skating on the lake, hiking, and hot chocolate by the lodge fireplace. A free will offering is accepted. Come for a fun-filled afternoon of outdoor winter activities. Please [RSVP](#).

Grace's Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, we post closings or delayed openings on the church phone 717-737-0439 x14, on the website, and most will, also, appear on CBS 21 and ABC 27 as well.

Good News from Grace articles are due by **12 noon on the 15th of the month** for the next month's newsletter. Grace Notes information is due by **12 noon on Tuesdays**.
Email to ddeppen@gracecamphill.org

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

1610 Carlisle Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

717-737-0439
office@gracecamphill.org

Visit us on Facebook at [Grace Lutheran Church](#) or on the web at: www.gracecamphill.org

Check out our YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/@GraceCampHill>