



Good News from Grace

May 2025

Our Purpose

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

*"A farmer went out to sow his seed. **4** As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. **5** Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. **6** But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. **7** Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. **8** Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. **9** Whoever has ears, let them hear."*

Matthew 13:3-9

May is the time to plant. By this time the final frost should have passed and the soil and climate are perfect for fostering new growth. This truth reminds us that growth in faith and growth in any area of the human experience requires the right soil and climate. If our surroundings are not conducive to growth, than it will make it almost impossible for us as an individual or collective to grow. If the systems and people that surround us are not creating environments where seeds can be grown, not to sound too pessimistic here, but no amount of watering or tending to the seed

will allow it to grow. As people, and as church, we need to foster environments where new growth is possible and encouraged. If our focus is on growth and creating new life, like I believe God's focus is, than we must be like the month of May and come together to create a good soil and a good climate where new ideas, new creation, new beautiful ways of living are possible. We should remember the parable of the Sower. Only those seeds that were planted in good soil produced crop worthy of sowing. God has provided us good seeds, and is asking us to be the good soil that will let God's seeds grow. We don't get to choose which seeds are planted or sown. But we do get to choose whether we are a people that will be good soil for what God is calling God's church to be in this modern world. Let us continue to be vessels and good stewards of God's creation and God's plans for all people. Let us remove the obstacles from our hearts and open them to see the truth of God's redemptive work in the world for all people and all creation.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Chad



First Quarter Update on Grace's 2025 Pledge Receipts

As of the first quarter, Grace has received 27.5% of the 2025 total dollar amount pledged for 2025. Six family units have met their annual pledge amounts for 2025. The Finance & Stewardship Ministry thanks the congregation for their continued support of Grace's mission.

Bill Robison
Chairperson

‘By the Mercies of God’

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. (Rom. 12:1)

These words from Romans 12:1–2 set stewardship in its rightful place. Here, St. Paul shows us stewardship in its proper relationship to the Lord, and what stewardship should look like in our faithful service to Him. These are good words for the faithful steward to consider on a regular basis.

Notice from whence comes the appeal! The mercies of God are the defining factor, shaping both the steward and all subsequent actions. It all begins with the mercies of God. This beginning is not some esoteric, philosophical consideration either. The mercies of God, poured out upon the faithful steward, find one anchor point in human history. The mercies of God are on full display at the cross.

On Calvary, our Lord Himself, bearing human vesture and carrying our sins and griefs, lowered His holy, crown-encircled brow. But Christ’s death on the cross should not be taken as a sign of defeat. Rather, by the mercies of God, Christ’s death grants fallen sinner/stewards like us new life! We trace this journey each year through the season of Lent and Easter. Amid the bloody sweat of Gethsemane, the injustice of the kangaroo court in Jerusalem, the ruthless and spineless acquiescence of Pilate, and the gore of Golgotha, we see exactly what the mercies of God look like.

Everything Jesus endured should have been ours. When Jesus is forgiving and promising paradise even as He is being forsaken for us, we see true mercy! This mercy is what redefines who we are, a redefinition which happens when we are baptized. Once dead and deserving of condemnation, in Baptism we are given new life in Christ. This new life in Christ changes how we see ourselves. It also changes how we see the world.

By viewing ourselves and the world in this new way, we can start to live out St. Paul’s oxymoronic call to be “living sacrifices.” We know from the Old Testament that sacrifice means something dies. The bulls and goats, lambs and rams came at a high price. In the waters of Holy Baptism, something also dies — the old Adam. In our Baptism, we have already died and have been raised. This is how the mercy of God works on us. In the dying and rising, we can be a daily sacrifice that has been made holy and acceptable to God. This is not by our action, but by His!

Paul talks about this as our “spiritual worship.” The Greek word here is *leitourgos*, which is where we get the word “liturgy.” It is this view of the mercies of God that forms our daily stewardship, and our daily worship. The mercies of God define all you do in the course of a week as a steward of the Gospel worship. It is not limited to the Divine Service. In fact, the mercies you receive in the Divine Service are what you carry out to share with the world as your living sacrifice. After spending time with Jesus, you bear His image and His glow out into the world that is full of darkness and death. You have been made holy and acceptable to Him for the purpose of showing His mercy to others. This is what makes our “daily liturgy” so important. As we live and serve, and as we seek and share forgiveness and life with those around us, we are walking billboards of God’s mercy in Christ.

This is what your stewardship puts on display. None of it is about you. It is about Jesus in and through you. You can’t get to this by your own efforts. It is only about the mercies of God. These mercies are the treasure that you steward in your daily life of worship!

Join us for Worship!

Saturdays at 5:00PM

Sundays at 9:30AM

or Sundays

[via Live Stream](#)

You can also find the service posted on Grace's [YouTube](#) page after Sunday worship.

Faith Formation

Twice a month on Sunday at

10:45am

September to May

Watch worship on YouTube

Sunday Worship Services available
on YouTube at Grace Camp Hill.

<https://www.youtube.com/@GraceCampHill>

They are currently being posted on Mondays.



This Month at Grace...

The Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship for **May** is given by G. R. Little in honor of Jocelyn Little & Chaney Helman.

The Special Benevolence Offering for **May is The Link 4 Youth (formerly Medard's House)**

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

2025 Sponsorship Opportunities

Fresh Altar flowers will only be purchased if a 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 sponsorships are \$45, Bulletin & Mailing sponsorships are \$30 and the Sanctuary Lamp sponsorships are \$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.



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.

Coffee Hour



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



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.

We hold in prayer especially this week...

Josie Knoll, Dale Wintermyer, Judi Fenicle, Helen Titzel, Betty Bennett, Jessica Ambrose, Dave Rowland, Nancy, Toby Hershey, Alice M., Mark Weber, Bruce Hafer, Tammy Blauvelt, The Runkle Family and Dean Jury.

We hold in ongoing prayer...

Gene Wiebel, Bradley Stackpole, Herb & Bonnie, Tom & Nancy Dunn, Susan Atwood, Rebecca Westenberger, Pete Psychogis, Paul & Linda Glance, and Kay King.

We also hold our homebound in prayer:

Gladys Cline, Joan Harman, Howard Lauver, Lou Lore, Patti Reed, Bob Rhodes, Mary Louise Shetter, and Dorothy Shreffler.

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.

Prayer List Policy

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

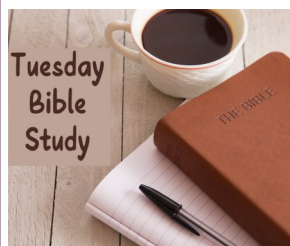
Let's be good stewards of our prayer list. If someone has healed, or if someone has moved on to eternal life, please let the church office know. Names will automatically be moved to the ongoing prayers after a month on the weekly prayers, which are read out loud during worship. They will then be removed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

Prayer is not a preparation for the battle; it is the battle!

Leonard Ravenhill



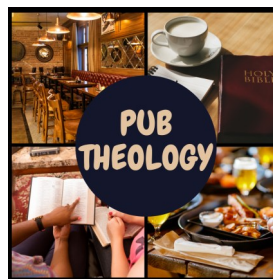
Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesday Bible Study

Bible Study every Tuesday at 1pm in the Library. The group The current topic is on Human Sexuality in the Bible.

*Trailing clouds of glory do we come,
from God who is our home.*

William Wordsworth



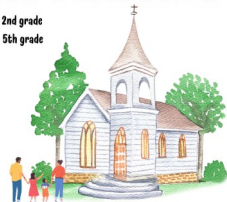
Pub Theology:

There are currently two groups for Pub Theology that will be meeting once a month on different dates/times and locations. Watch the Grace Notes for the most recent information.

For more information regarding Pub Theology please reach out to Pastor Chad at pastorchad@gracecamphill.org.

Faith Formation

Preschool - 2nd grade
3rd grade - 5th grade



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, May 4

Faith Formation by age group

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

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Sundays at 10:45am
in the Small Conference Room



Faith Formation for Adults

Sundays 10:45

Small Conference Room

Steve Behr will be starting a weekly Faith Formation for Adults on **Sunday, May 4**. It will meet in the small conference room.

They will be looking at the gospel of Mark. It is the first known gospel - written about AD 55 maybe in Israel. It has no Christmas stories, no shepherds and sheep, and no appearance of Jesus after his burial - only the empty tomb. Lots to talk about and puzzle over.

It is not written in western newspaper style, so we have to read it in middle eastern style. That is hard for modern folks. Come and have your mind opened to how folks might have heard the good news in 55 AD.

Youth Food Cards

Karns, Weis and Giant grocery cards in the dollar amounts of \$25, \$50, and \$100 are available at the church office Monday - Thursday from 8am - 12noon.

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



Grace Youth Group (GYG)

The Grace Youth Group (GYG) and Junior Youth Group (JYG) will have an abridged schedule. They will be meeting once a month at their normal sessions on the dates listed below. For more information please contact Ethan Lentz at ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.org.

DATE	EVENT
May 4	10:45am JYG
May 4	4:45pm GYG



Calling All Graduates

At this time, we are unsure of how many of our Grace members are celebrating this milestone and what one's plans are after graduating. We would like to share in your success and recognize you all during worship on **Sunday, June 1st**. Your names will be listed in the Grace Notes that Sunday, followed by a more in-depth article in the June *Good News from Grace Newsletter*. This would include a short bio and picture, if provided.

An email or letter was sent out in April to the families of students between the ages of 17-25. If you did not receive one and wish to have your student included please complete the Graduating Student form [HERE](#) and return it to the church office by **Tuesday, May 13**.

A brief reception will be held in the library immediately following the service on June 1. We encourage all students and their families, friends and relatives to attend this special morning service.



Lutheran Camping Night at Harrisburg Senators Friday, May 9 | 7:00pm | Harrisburg Senators at FNB Field on City Island

The Lutheran Camping Corporation and the Harrisburg Senators Baseball Team invite you to a night of fun and fellowship at FNB Field for their annual Lutheran Camping Night! A portion of each Advance Sale Ticket will benefit the Lutheran Camping Corporation's Campership Fund. [REGISTER HERE](#)



Summer Camp Kick-off Worship & Picnic

Sunday, May 18 | 3:30pm | Camp Nawakwa (1033 Nawakwa Road, Biglerville)

Join friends, volunteers, and staff of The Lutheran Camping Corporation (Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm) to celebrate the opening of the 2025 Summer Camping Season with worship, fellowship, and fabulous food. Worship starts at 3:30pm.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Bunny Pot Luck

A great time was had by all at the Bunny Potluck on Passion/Palm Sunday. There were craft stations, an Easter Egg Hunt and an appearance by the Easter Bunny. Below are some photographs from the event.



From the Church Council



Council Actions April 2025

1. Council approved scheduling an informational seminar with Primerica for Grace members as well as Community members. The session will deal with financial planning.
2. Council has approved to go to a month-to-month lease for the rental property on Carlisle Road.
3. A committee was formed to plan for a future Strawberry Festival.
4. Council decided and approved the yearly expenditure of \$1300 to revamp, maintain and modernize the Grace Church website and develop promotional materials and merchandise.
5. Council accepted the following new members: Tom, Sarah, Matt and Mia Hooper; Carol Bartoski, Jane & Ron Massott.
6. Council approved the expenditure of \$2700 to address water treatment issues at Kentland.

FROM THE TREASURER



Members and friends of Grace,

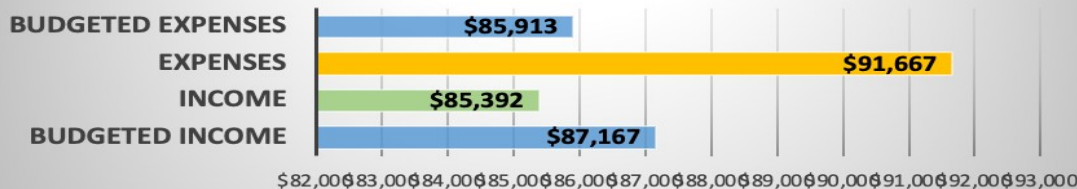
Thank you for your continued support of Grace's ministries! Our difference in budgeted and actual expenses this month is due to the required end of year transfer dictated by our budget principles.

Please remember to keep up with fulfilling your pledges! New pledges will be welcome throughout the whole year.

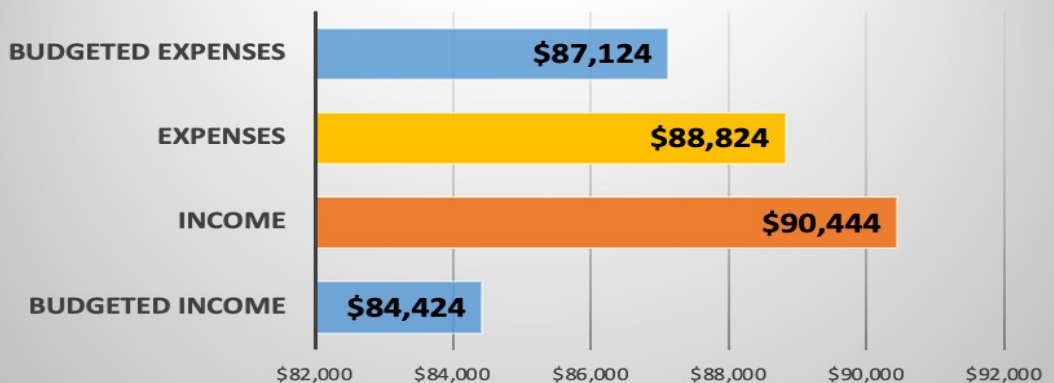
Happy Spring!

- Kelly Walker, Treasurer

Grace Lutheran Church thru Feb 2025



Grace Lutheran Church, March 2024



Grace's Book Club

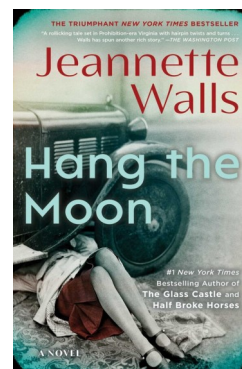


Grace's Book Club has selected to read "Hang The Moon" by Jeannette Walls

"Most folk thought Sallie Kincaid was a nobody who'd amount to nothing. Sallie had other plans. Sallie Kincaid is the daughter of the biggest man in a small town, the charismatic Duke Kincaid. Born at the turn of the 20th century into a life of comfort and privilege, Sallie remembers little about her mother who died in a violent argument with the Duke. By the time she is just eight years old, the Duke has remarried and had a son, Eddie. While Sallie is her father's daughter, sharp-witted and resourceful, Eddie is his mother's son, timid and cerebral. When Sallie tries to teach young Eddie to be more like their father, her daredevil coaching leads to an accident, and Sallie is cast out.

Nine years later, she returns, determined to reclaim her place in the family. That's a lot more complicated than Sallie expected, and she enters a world of conflict and lawlessness. Sallie confronts the secrets and scandals that hide in the shadows of the Big House, navigates the factions in the family and town, and finally comes into her own as a bold, sometimes reckless bootlegger."

"A rip-roaring, action-packed novel set during prohibition filled with head-spinning plot twists and enough dead bodies, doomed romances, and sudden betrayals to make you wonder if George R.R. Martin had decided to ditch fantasy for Southern Gothic." —***The New York Times***



"You'll fall in love with Sallie on the very first page and keep rooting for her all the way through to the last" (***Good Housekeeping***) in this thrilling read that "goes down easy... like the forbidden whisky that defines the life of Sallie Kincaid" (***Associated Press***).

About the Author

Jeannette Walls graduated from Barnard College and was a journalist in New York. Her memoir, *The Glass Castle*, has been a *New York Times* bestseller for more than eight years. She is also the author of the instant *New York Times* bestsellers *The Silver Star* and *Half Broke Horses*, which was named one of the ten best books of 2009 by the editors of *The New York Times Book Review*. Walls lives in rural Virginia with her husband, the writer John Taylor.

Join the book club on **Monday, May 5 at 7pm** to discuss this book via Zoom. [**CLICK HERE**](#) for login information.

Stained Glass Sun Catcher

Want to make a stained glass sun catcher? Pastor Evan will be leading a beginners' stained glass class. No experience necessary. There will be a nominal fee to cover the cost of materials. If interested please contact Pastor Evan at [**pastorevan47@gmail.com**](mailto:pastorevan47@gmail.com).



Wine & Cheese Night

Saturday, May 3 | 4:30pm | Library at Grace

Join us in the Library at 4:30pm for Wine & Cheese prior to the 5:00pm Sabbath Worship service. If you wish to sponsor a Wine & Cheese night sign up on the sheet on the first pew in the Chapel.



A Walnut Tabernacle

I'd like to provide some background information on the tabernacle used during communion. It's my opinion that this wood has now gone full circle to reside here at Grace.

My father planted the walnut tree back in 1954 when he bought the property. When the tree toppled after a lightening strike, Dad harvested the log and had it milled into lumber. It was stickered in his garage until his death and then housed in mine for the last twenty years. I worked with Pastor Chad to fabricate the unit seen here.

My daughters grew up and were baptized here at Grace. Katie and her family still attend. Jessie and her husband, Jason, are ordained Lutheran Ministers in Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

The pattern for this cross originated when I crafted one similar for, Jessie's, still-born child, Lily, seven years ago.

Johnny Cash sang a song that I think brings us full circle. It goes like this:

"Let the Circle be unbroken
By and by Lord, By and by...."

You know the rest.

Thank you,

Randy Hamme



Much Thanks!

Grace's first week of hosting Family Promise HCR families went great! The families enjoyed the delicious food that we prepared and the comfortable space we provided. Van transportation went without a hitch.

I was puffed up with pride at the hospitality shown to these families. Well done Grace!

Susan Ryder

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.

May 14 & 28

More information at [https://
www.gracecamphill.org/service](https://www.gracecamphill.org/service)

 **FREE** 
Adult Clothing
May 10, 2025
9-11am



Trinity's Closet on Main
132 E. Main St.
Mechanicsburg, PA



Let's Celebrate Monumental Birthdays!

Shirley Davis turns **90 years old** on **May 17**. Please take a moment to wish her a happy birthday with a telephone call or mail a card to:

Shirley Davis
325 Wesley Drive
Apt. 119
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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

5/1 Gary Weller
5/2 Robert Sakson
5/4 Chad Martier
5/5 Audrey Egley
5/7 Megan Goetz
Pastor Evan Houck
5/8 Benjamin Galle
5/11 Thomas Blackburn
Demetria Johansen
Bonnie Miller
5/12 Elizabeth Redclift
5/14 Ian Budzinski
5/15 Brian Small
Kathryn Smith
Chelsea Sulzaberger
5/16 Gabrielle O'Haren
Katelyn Yeager
Shirley Davis
Rick Kaufmann
Alice Richards
5/17 Christine Hakes
5/19 Colin McQuade
Bill McQuade

5/20 Lauren Bozart
Trevor Fry
Melissa Meador
Hailey Seeger
Jared Weber
Susan Weller
5/21 Kevin Budzinski
Megan Kauffman
Glenn Ressler
5/22 Jacquelyn Behney
5/23 Dave Atwood
John Foster
5/24 Ann Hoffman
5/26 Kaiden Pautz
Patricia Reed
5/27 Landon Progin
Donald Schell
Krista Snavely
5/28 Christian Hyde
5/29 Barry Fenicle





Volunteers Needed at Grace

Have you been considering finding a way to contribute to Grace's Ministry? Are you someone who is comfortable with technology? Or maybe you are looking for a way to participate, but don't have a lot of evenings free. Maybe, you are a good planner or interested in helping those in need.

There are many ways you can help support the ministries at Grace, but right now we have four ministries that are really in need of some additional volunteers. Please take a moment to pray about servicing with one of these ministries:

Sound Team

The Sound team is invaluable here at Grace and without them Sunday Worship could not happen. They are currently looking for some additional members to join the current four person team. Kris Hartman will provide training sometime in May or June 2025. If you are interested of taking this training please contact the church office at 717-737-0439 or office@gracecamphill.org.

Senior Helper

Our senior helpers are unsung heroes who are here to get you where you need to go. In the last year our list of people available has dwindled. This is a great way to get involved in a ministry where you set your own schedule. A list of names is kept in the church office to be provided to those who have a need. From there it is up to you whether or not you are able to assist that person on the date needed. If you would like to be added to our Senior Helper list please contact Diane at 717-737-0439 or ddeppen@gracecamphill.org.

Strawberry Festival Committee

Do you remember all the fun that was to be had at Grace's Strawberry Festival? Well, Council is looking for people to join a Strawberry Festival Committee chaired by Jared Weber with the hopes of hosting a festival sometime in August 2025. If you are interested in joining the committee please contact Jared Weber at

The Giving Pantry

The Giving Pantry is looking for volunteers to help with the Fruit & Veggie Weekly pick-ups. Pick-up is Monday mornings at 11:00am at Weis Markets located on Linglestown Road. The produce is then brought to the church and placed in either refrigerator in The Giving Pantry room or the refrigerator downstairs in the kitchen. They are looking for a least a one time per month commitment. If you would like more information or to sign up to participate in this ministry please contact Sudan Ryder at ryder.susan@comcast.net

Lost & Found



Lost & Found

Don't forget to check the Lost & Found basket & 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 removed. If you are unable to stop in call the office 717-737-0439. for staff to look for you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, May 3 | 10am | 121 North Spring Street, Middletown

Rain or Shine! Join Hope Academy PA for an Earth Day celebration and the unveiling for the new Hope Together Community Garden. Free crafts and activities, music and Earth Day education! Help us fill our new raised garden beds & plant seedling for the new garden.

Music at the Spring

Sunday, May 4 | 3:00pm | Free | Trindle Springs Lutheran Church

The last concert of the 2024-2025 season of Music at the Spring will take place on Sunday, May 4. This performance will feature the Hershey Handbell Ensemble. Doors will open at 2:30pm with the concert to begin at 3pm. The performance is free and open to the public.

Garden Faire

Sunday, May 4 | 10am - 4pm | Festival Admission Free/ Mansion tours \$5/person | Fort Hunter Mansion & Park (5300 N. Front Street, Harrisburg)

Welcome spring! Join us at Garden Faire as we celebrate the opening of the Fort Hunter Mansion and festival season at Fort Hunter Mansion and Park. Families can participate in a lots of activities, view exhibits in the Centennial Barn, tour the Fort Hunter Mansion, enjoy lunch in the Tavern House, and more! Admission to the festival is free and mansion tours are at a reduced price during the event. [CLICK here for mansion tour tickets.](#)

Activities Include: Maypole Dance, Croquet Demonstration, Children's Activities, Craft Vendors, Friends of Fort Hunter Plant Sale, Ikebana International and Bonsai exhibits, Paxtange Art Show & Sale, Seed Swap and more!

Drive Thru Chicken BBQ

May 4 | 11am - 1:30pm | Lisburn Community Fire Company (1800 Main Street, Lisburn)**

Lisburn Community Fire Company will hold a Drive Thru Chicken BBQ on Sunday, May 4 from 11:00am - 1:30pm (or until SOLD OUT). Each person will receive half BBQ chicken, baked potato, roll, butter and applesauce for \$10. Follow signs for traffic flow into the property from Brenda Ave.

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](https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranChurch) or on the web at: www.gracecamphill.org

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