

Good News from Grace

OCTOBER 2025

Bring Back Mystery

As a society, I have noticed that at least in my lifetime, we are not very good at embracing Mystery. For me, this has nothing to do with the rise of Atheism, Agnosticism, or any movement that denies the existence of deity. In fact, I think this is an issue for both people of faith and non-faith a like. Mystery is not exclusive to belief. Mystery happens all the time in science, art, music, feelings, etc. Faith-lead people don't have exclusive rights on the concept of Mystery. However, in both areas of non-belief and belief, I have been witnessing a concerning denial of the existence of Mystery in our lives. Mystery has many definitions, but for me, I would define Mystery as a three fold definition. Mystery is the ability to sit with the unknown, to know that we do not know everything, and to hold in tandem, what we know and what we do not yet know. One of the greatest Mysteries that Christians have is the Mystery of the Eucharist. For Lutherans, we believe in the true presence of Christ in the Eucharist, where he is present in, with and under the elements. We don't know how this is exactly possible, but we affirm this reality and live in the Mystery of it all. Same with the theological concept of the Trinity, 3 in 1 God. Scripture reveals this reality to us, but it is ultimately a Mystery. Richard Rohr said in his book, the Divine Dance, "Human strength admires autonomy; God's mystery rests in mutuality." He is speaking of the Trinity and how mutuality is at the core of who God is. We believe that God is the most powerful being/non-being in the universe, and in our biblical understanding, that strength comes in eternal relationship. Mystery brings us together, it forces us to seek beyond ourselves and to be inquisitive towards people we don't know and things we don't know. Mystery pushes us outward, to seek and explore things beyond ourselves so that we may grow in our understanding of God's creation and how God wishes for us to live in creation. Remember, God lives in relationship, and we were made for relationship. Please resist the urge to isolate and fall inward, because we need each other, we cannot do life alone. Reclaim the desire for Mystery, and allow God to expand our hearts and minds to places we never thought possible. And create relationships in unlikely places.

Grace and Peace.

Pastor Chad

Harmonious Stewardship

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another" (Romans 12:4-5).

One of the most forgotten concepts in stewardship is the interdependent nature that makes up the Body of Christ and the way that body supports the shared work of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is experienced in the local congregation, as well as in broader mission and ministry efforts at the district and Synod levels. Yet in these words, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that we are indeed members of one another. This is true in our worship. It is also true in our stewardship of the Gospel. Stewards of all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities, affluence and influence are all assembled around Word and Sacrament in the local congregation with no one being more important than the other.

Part of this forgetting lies in what the eyes see and how our human mind operates. Our eyes and our minds are quick to come to the erroneous conclusion that the person who writes the biggest check is the more important steward. Human logic, flawed by sin as it is, could make a claim that the youngest child or the most infirm, aged member of the congregation would certainly be considered something less than important when it comes to the stewardship of the Gospel.

Paul makes it clear in these words that this is not how stewardship of the Gospel is measured in the Body of Christ. Rather, it would be better to view local stewardship like the lost art of harmony in congregational singing. This has been lost not only due to the performative nature of the lead singers of the local praise team, but also because modern hymnals are written to almost force the novice hymn-singer into unison voice. Creative harmonization by talented organists is beautiful to listen to, but does not always support the people in the pews in singing in parts. This is a loss in demonstrating a very practical aspect of whole-body stewardship.

The sound that builds when choral and congregational singers settle into their voice parts is nothing short of heavenly! Yet when altos, tenors and bass sing their individual parts without any concept of how they fit together, the music doesn't sound as powerful. The narrow range of the typical alto line almost sounds monotonous. The tenor line can get painfully high, and the base line can get uncomfortably low. But, when interdependently entwined, along with the melody that is so often carried by the sopranos, the music becomes a tremendously powerful tool in communicating the Gospel.

The same is true of individual stewards. Certainly, stewards with more financial means are in a unique place to "carry the tune" for ministry in a local congregation. But that doesn't rule out the faithful stewardship of the saint-like 94-year-old Hulda, who prayed for her young pastor in German every night while the aches and pains of arthritis and the grief of losing a daughter to cancer kept her awake. This does not rule out Jimmy, the profoundly developmentally disabled confirmand whose basic but dramatically eloquent confession of the faith left an impression on a congregation long after he went to be with Jesus. It doesn't rule out the single parent, the recovering addict, the family coming out of bankruptcy, the elderly widow and everyone in between.

The Lord has entrusted all the baptized with stewardship of the one thing needful: the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No one member of any congregation is more important than another when it comes to this stewardship. The biggest check isn't always the best way to communicate the Gospel. In fact, it is almost always better communicated with the widow's mite, the tenacious stewardship of the talents and so much more.

In the local congregation and beyond, our corporate stewardship of the Gospel needs each other to fill out our great confession. It is not about equal amount. It is about interdependence that only the Holy Spirit can work! Each of us has a role to play, a harmony to sing. The standard for that role is faithfulness. We do not have the same function, but we have the same Jesus! As we sing the parts entrusted to us by the Holy Spirit, the sweet music of the Gospel goes out!

LCMS Stewardship Ministry – lcms.org/stewardship



Join Us for Worship

IN - PERSON

Saturdays at 5:00pm in Barkley Chapel

Sundays at 9:30am in the Sanctuary

or

Sundays via Live Stream

Services are also available on <u>Grace's</u>
<u>YouTube</u> page after Sunday worship



Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour runs September - May before and after Sunday Morning Worship.

If you and/or your family would like to host a coffee hour contact the office.

<u> Our Purpose</u>

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

This Month at Grace

The Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship for OCTOBER is given by Brian & Lori Small in honor of grandson Josiah's 20th birthday.

The Special Benevolence Offering for OCTOBER is GRACE TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY. To contribute please list the dollar amount next to *Special Offering Ministry* or us this QR code to give now or pay online at www.gracecamphill.org and select Online Giving under the Give tab.



Give Now

2025 Sponsorship Opportunities

Fresh Altar flowers will only be purchased if a Sunday is sponsored. All Altar Flower sponsorships requests MUST be received two weeks prior to the date you wish to sponsor. Altar Flower Sponsorships are \$45, Bulletin & Mailing Sponsorships are \$30, and the Sanctuary Lamp Monthly Sponsorships are \$21. ALL sponsorships can be paid for online, by mail, or by dropping an envelope in the offering at a worship service.

To view available dates for 2025 you can check the sign up sheets next to the elevator or on the website at: https://www.gracecamphill.org/pages/sponsorship

If you are interested in sponsoring one of the available dates you can sign up next to the elevator or by contacting Diane in the church office at 717-737-0439 x 15 or ddeppen@gracecamphill.org.

Please note that we have added two columns to the Altar Flower Sponsorship sign up sheet. We are asking you to indicate by checking a box whether or not you plan to take the flowers you have sponsored home or if you would like them to take them to members of the congregation.

Grace Tech Ministries



At the June Congregational Meeting, the project to improve audio and video within the sanctuary was approved to bring the church to current day technology. The project is currently underway and we are excited to see it completed. To date there is approximately (\$18,597.00) in the fund to offset the project cost.

Please consider financially supporting the tech improvements by contributing to "Grace Tech Ministry" online, by mail or dropping in the offering at a worship service. Please contact Bryan Weber at bweber98@hotmail.com should you have any questions.

Bryan Weber, Chair



Stewardship Campaign for 2026

This year's Stewardship campaign begins on September 21 and will run through November 23. Our campaign is entitled "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace."

Each week we will show a brief video from church members describing stewardship initiatives and experiences.

On October 14 we will be mailing this year's pledge letter and forms. A QR code on the letter can be scanned should you wish to pledge online. If you choose not to pledge online you may return the pledge form to the church office with the envelope provided with the mailing.

Stay tuned in person at church, or online to view the videos and listened to what your fellow parishioners have to say about stewardship at Grace. Help us reach our goal of 100 pledges for 2026.

Bill Robison Chair



Happy Holidays - Can You Believe It?

It seems like school has just begun and summer is winding down, but here at the Grace Giving Pantry, we've begun to think about collecting food items for our Thanksgiving and Christmas meal distributions. Thanksgiving is barely 70 days away, and Christmas follows quickly.

We are in need of cans of green beans, corn, peas, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, pineapple, and peaches. In addition to canned items, we are collecting packages/boxes of mashed potatoes or scalloped potatoes. Finally, let's talk turkey! We expect to distribute 40-45 turnkeys or hams to our families x2 holidays! We've found that Target has the best price on turkeys and hams and are happy to accept a gift card, check, or a turkey/ham!

We thank all of you for all the help and support you give to our ministry every year. Without you, our endeavors would be less succesful.

Blessings,

Grace Giving Pantry







We hold in prayer especially this month...

Carole Orendorf, Ed & Elaine Klemmer, Corey Keller, Mary, Joe Mussari, Mary Mensah, Amy Vogel, Judi Fenicle, Helen Titzel, Dave Rowland, Alice M., and Dean Jury.

We hold in prayer this month the recently departed...

Richard Uber and Ed Hurst.

We hold in Ongoing prayer this month...

Michelle Sutter, Mary, Nancy, Mark Weber, Bruce Hafer, Tammy Blauvelt, Susan Atwood, Pete Psichogis, Paul & Linda Glance, and Kay King.

We also hold our Homebound in prayer this month...

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

Prayer List Policy

...sometimes you 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. They will be removed from the ongoing prayers after another month unless you notify us.

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 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 cold benefit from being added to the prayers, please let Pastor Chad know. He will contact the individual to find out whether they wish to beadded to the "out loud" prayers or the "ongoing" prayers.



From the Church Council Council Actions - September 2025

- 1. Council approved moving the AED to the Narthex and purchase a second one for downstairs.
- 2. A series of videos are being prepared and will be shown to the congregation to provide information about the Pledge Campaign. Updated Pledge Cards will be sent to members.
- 3. The library refresh is ongoing. Thank you to all members who have donated their labor.
- 4. The Rental House has been rented with a one-year lease.
- 5. Council approved the acceptance of new members, Roxanne and Miranda Eckenrode.
- 6. All members interacting with youth must have clearances on file, to be renewed every 5 years.
- 7. The Faith Formation Committee is planning many events in the coming months. See the Events Calendar on the website.

Brigitte Storey Secretary

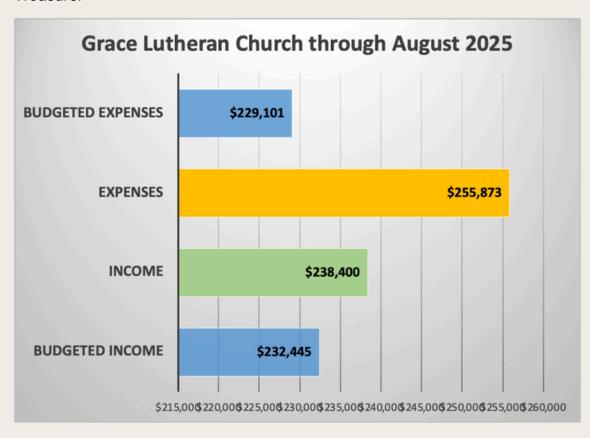


Members of Grace,

August looked like a heavier month on expenses, but that was mostly because of timing - things like payroll and a couple of big seasonal bills all happened to land at once. That's normal in church accounting, and it doesn't point to any deeper issue. Day-to-day, we're right on track, and your continued generosity has kept us in a healthy spot.

As we move forward into fall, we are grateful for the ways your gifts make ministry happen. From worship on Sundays to caring for our property, to keeping outreach and community programs going strong. Every bit of support matters, and together we keep Grace thriving.

Kelly Walker Treasurer





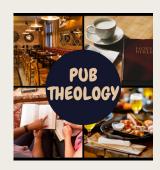
Adult Faith Formation Sundays at 10:45am in the Small Conference Room

The Adult Faith formations classes are weekly on Sundays 10:45am. Starting on September 21, Steve Behr, will lead a five week study on the Jewish War and the Fall of Jerusalem.



Adult Bible Study Tuesdays, September - May 1pm in the Library

The Bible Study group will be studying various books of the Bible to understand what the text was trying to say and what it's saying to us today.



Pub Theology

There are currently two groups for Pub Theology that will meet at various pubs in the area to talk about how God works in life, politics, faith, science and everything inbetween. All opinions, experiences, and perspective are welcome.

GROUP 1

Date & Location TBD

GROUP 2

Date & Location TBD

For more information, to join or start a new group contact Pastor Chad at pastorchad@gracecamphill.org





Installation of Bishop Stephen R. Herr Saturday, October 25, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

Join us in celebrating the installation of the Rev. Stephen R. Herr as Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. This joyful worship service is a time for the whole church to worship God, celebrate our unity in Christ, and pray for our synod and Bishop Herr as we begin our ministry together.

ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry will preach and preside. A reception will follow the service. All are welcome to attend as we share in fellowship and celebration. American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation will be provided for this worship service.

For more information go to https://www.lss-elca.org/bishops-installation-2025/

Parking Information

St. Matthew Lutheran Church is located at 30 West Chestnut Street in downtown Hanover, PA, at the corner of Chestnut and Franklin streets, just a few blocks from the center square. Ample parking is available at the church. Handicap spaces are available in both the Franklin Street and Chestnut Street church parking lots. Parking attendants will be available to assist you.

Livestreaming Available

For those unable to attend in person, the service will be livestreamed on St. Matthew's YouTube Channel.



Grace Book Club October 6, 2025 at 7pm via Zoom

Join us as we discuss our next book, Sandwich by Catherine Newman.

For the past two decades, Rocky has looked forward to her family's yearly escape to Cape Cod. Their humble beach-town rental has been the site of sweet memories, sunny days, great meals, and messes of all kinds: emotional, marital, and—thanks to the cottage's ancient plumbing—septic too.

This year's vacation, with Rocky sandwiched between her half-grown kids and fully aging parents, promises to be just as delightful as summers past—except, perhaps, for Rocky's hormonal bouts of rage and melancholy. (Hello, menopause!) Her body is changing—her life is, too. And then a chain of events sends Rocky into the past, reliving both the tenderness and sorrow of a handful of long-ago summers. It's one precious week: everything is in balance; everything is in flux. And when Rocky comes face to face with her family's history and future, she is forced to accept that she can no longer hide her secrets from the people she loves.

"Sandwich is joy in book form. I laughed continuously, except for the parts that made me cry. Catherine Newman does a miraculous job reminding us of all the wonder there is to be found in life."—Ann Patchett, New York Times bestselling author of Tom Lake



Braver Angels Workshop

Saturday, October 11 | 9:30 - 2:00pm | Social Hall

On 11th October, 2025, representatives from the Braver Angel's Lower Susquehanna Alliance will host a Common Ground Workshop on Immigration at Grace Lutheran Church. This workshop is different from other workshops and is part of a national initiative to find common ground on immigration. The Braver Angels Common Ground Workshop brings together equal numbers of Conservatives and Liberals – Reds and Blues (4-8 of each) – for a deep dive into a problem, such as addressing climate change, electoral reform or abortion. Participants will engage in four exercises designed to identify personal connections to the issue, policy stances, discovering common ground, and finding unanimous Points of Agreement.

By the end of the workshop, participants have come up with jointly and unanimously held Points of Agreements on values, concerns and policies. It can lead to joint Red-Blue actions such as op-eds, joint speaking and meetings with legislators. Results will be shared with members of our US Congress.

There are two ways to join a Common Ground Workshop:

- Participant: A participant will engage in small and large group discussions with individuals of both the same and different political persuasions. Participants must identify as "red" (Republican or leaning conservative) or "blue" (Democrat or leaning liberal). We will strive for an equal balance of red and blue participants: 4 to 8 people on each side.
- Observer/Alternate: An observer/alternate will not participate in the discussions directly but will have the opportunity to watch and listen. Observers/Alternates should be ready to step in and participate as their "color" in the event of participant cancellations.

We need 8-12 participants representing two different views of immigration. When you register at https://braverangels.org/event/common-ground-workshop-immigration-4/, you will be asked whether you have a more conservative or liberal view on immigration so that Braver Angels can ensure equal representation of both sides. Participation is limited and a representative from Braver Angels will contact you if you are chosen as a participant or observer. You will receive a pre-read on the topic prior to the workshop. By the event, participants will jointly identify unanimously held "Points of Agreements." Braver Angels has had a very positive response to the Common Ground workshops and past participants have indicated the time flies. Anyone interested in developing a deeper understanding of, and connection with, people whose beliefs differ from their own are welcome to attend.

Questions? Rick Keen will be in the library after church to answer your questions.



Community Meal Menu

October 8 at 5:30pm
Chicken leg quarters
Mashed potatoes
Corp.

Corn
Applesauce
Assorted Desserts

October 22 at 5:30pm

Beef Stroganoff ** over potpie/noodles Coleslaw Fruit cup Assorted Desserts

God's work. Our Hands. Sunday - September 7, 2025

On God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, over 30 people from Grace Camp Hill and Trinity Lemoyne volunteered at Midwest Foodbank in Middletown. We repackaged pallets of apple sauce to help feed those in need. Thank you all for being Christ in the world!









Youth Food Cards

Karns Foods, Weis Markets, 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 in cash please have the exact change.

At this time we do not accept credit cards.



GYG For all youth aged 6th - 12th Grade

1st & 3rd Sunday/Month 5pm - 7:30pm (Calendar May be Adjusted)

lease contact Ethan Lentz with any questions Ethan.Lentz@gracecamphill.org tay up to date by following us on Facebook, Instagram and Join our Band chato join in the community!

View Events & Special Worship Calendar HERE or pick up a brochure in the narthexes or Library



Digging Deeper

A young leaders theology class for 15 - 22 year olds where we dig deep and answer the faith-based questions you are facing, or are just curious about, in your daily lives. This group will meet monthly over zoom. Contact Ethan Lentz at ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.org for more information. The first meeting is Wed. Oct. 15.



Junior Youth Group (JYG)

Meets every other month from October - May. This meeting time will allow its participants to learn all about the fun of youth group and what they can anticipate as they get ready for their Youth Group years. In these meetings there will be games, laughter, community building, and a splash of faith formation for our younger Grace participants. This meeting will also be great for our younger Grace participants to get to know those that are already in youth group, hear their stories, and get to build relationships with their older peers. Please contact Ethan Lentz with any quesitons at ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.org

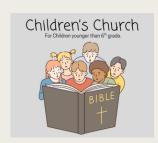


Confirmation Class September - May

Meet monthly starting
October19 to learn about
Lutheranism and the basics of
the Biblical Story. Youth
entering 7, 8 or 9 grade are
encouraged to sign up or
continue confirmation.

To view the complete schedule go

tohttps://www.gracecamphill.or g/faith-formation/confirmation



Children's Church During the Sermon

Occur twice a month starting on October 5. The intention is to provide an age appropriate message that children will love and be able to apply in their daily lives. The children will leave after the Gospel reading and return to the sanctuary in time for communion. It kicks off with Rally Day each year and runs through May.



Trunk or Treat Thursday, October 30 from 6pm -8pm in parking lot

We are looking for trunks or tables and members to pass out candy during Grace's Trunk or Treat in the parking lot on Thursday, October 30 from 6-8pm. Please sign-up in the parking lot hallway or by contacting the church office by Monday, October 13.





Here are some images from the Library Refresh that is ongoing.

















Rally Day and Outdoor Worship- September 14, 2025

On September 14, Grace had an Outdoor Worship service followed by Rally Day. There was a dunk tank, a bounce house, crafts and a meal.. A congregational photograph of those in attendance was taken as well.













10/18 Lolly Judge

Ray Kreider

Let's Celebrate our September Birthdays

We have some monumental birthdays to share: Lolly Judge turns 91 years old and Ray Kreider turns 96 years old on 10/18 and Robert Heintzelman turns 96 on 10/30. Please take a moment to wish them a happy birthday with a telephone call or by mailing a card to:

Lolly Judge 2007 Columbia Avenue Camp Hill, PA 17011

Ray Kreider 220 Winding Way Camp Hill, PA 17011

Robert Heintzelman 125 Limestone Drive Camp Hill, PA 17011

		120 Lilliestone Drive			
10/1	John Aldridge Maura White		Camp F	Hill, PA 17	011
10/2 10/6 10/8	Hope Pankake Mike Ryder Chad Butz Bryce Caron Graham Enrico Matt Hearn	10/19 10/20 10/22	Patrick Erb Evan White Thomas Zimmerman Laura Leer R. Andrew Hoff Claire Pankake	10/26 10/27 10/29	Randy Easton Christine McInnes Sue Painter Grace Mellott Karen Scharein Mike Hakes
10/10	Kason Hall Christian Vogelsong	10/24	Eden Pankake Karen Robison	10/00	Robert Heintzelman
10/13	Colleen Gill Martha Klingensmith Adam Pankake Bryson Shenck	10/25	Emma Madden Paul Redclift		
10/14	Barbara Morrow		66 ——		
10/17	Heather Flook			عمي و	

You can't help getting older, but
you don't have to get old.
George Burns

^{**}Please note if they person does not have a birthdate listed they either requested it not be printed in the newsletter or we do not have one. You can contact the church office for their actual birthdate.

To check out everything that is happening at Grace go to the events page on the website at https://www.gracecamphill.org/events or use the QR Code.



Upcoming Community Events

Below are some family-friendly events occurring in our area.

Pennsboro Pumpkin Fest Saturday, 10/11 9am - 5pm & Sunday, 10/12 11am - 5pm Adams-Ricci Community Park 400 East Penn Drive, Enola

The annual Pennsboro Pumpkin Fest returns. The 2-day event takes place at Adams-Ricci Park in Enola, PA. There will be 100+ vendors, including crafts, local businesses, games, a Car Show, a great entertainment lineup, and lots of great food! Free Admission and Parking.

Fine Arts at First presents Antonio Centenera, Pianist Sunday, October 19 at 4pm First Evangelical Lutheran Church 100 East High Street, Carlisle

Pianist Antonio Centeneta, a Carlisle native and graduate of Trinity High School, Camp Hill, is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in piano performance at the Shepherd School of Music at Rice University with Professor Brian Connelly. His piano recital is being held as a benefit for Project SHARE, Carlisle's food pantry. Since 1985 Project SHARE has served the Carlisle community to ensure that hose experincing food insecurity have access to healthy, nutritious food.

This event is Free.



Admission is Free Trinity Dillsburg 15 S. Fileys's Road, Dillsburg





Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
1610 Carlisle Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011
717-737-0439
office@gracecamphill.org

www.gracecamphill.org



