

Good News from Grace

DECEMBER 2025

I don't know about you, but all I have been seeing lately is road construction signs! They are everywhere! SLOW DOWN, REDUCE SPEED, MERGE RIGHT, MERGE LEFT, ROAD TO BE CLOSED, etc. UGH! So many signs telling us that we are going to need to drive differently! What do you mean I have to slow down and pay attention?! Don't these sign people know I have places to be?! And if you are anything like me, I am such a hypocrite. I will complain that the roads in Pennsylvania are HORRIBLE, but also complain that they are working on the roads. Just no pleasing me! Semijoking aside, these road signs have got me thinking. Why is it so important that we slow down? Well it's so that we pay attention to the people who are in danger of getting hit by a car, who are working on fixing our roads. All these signs and flashing lights are designed to make us slow down and pay attention to the thing that matters. The human being whose life is in danger if we are not paying attention. These signs remind me that the lives we are trying to protect are more important than the meeting I am running late too, or the home I am trying to get to.

Advent is kind of like those road construction signs. It forces us to slow down and remember what the destination of Christmas is actually about. Advent forces us to pay attention to what really matters about the holiday. We so often just want to get from point A to point B as fast as we possibly can. But the issue with that is, we miss out on all of the experiences and wisdom that we gain along the way. With Advent we are reminded why we need a savior in the first place. The themes of Advent are HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. But we cannot appreciate those sentiments until we walk through the valley, through the wilderness of Hopelessness, Conflict, Despair and Hatred. We cannot celebrate Christmas, until we recognize why we needed Christmas in the first place. Advent prepares us to embrace the Christmas spirit with the fullness of our souls, by reminding us that without Jesus Christ, Hope, Peace, Joy and Love would be impossible. So just like those road signs, and the road construction, we have to slow down in order to remember why we need the road work and Christmas to begin with. Because without road work, we wouldn't have roads, and we wouldn't be able to get to where we need to be. And without Advent, without acknowledging our need for Christ, we wouldn't be able to share in the true Joy of what Christmas really means for the world. A Savior is born and through that Savior, God created a well paved road where all souls can get to their heavenly destination, without fear. Happy Advent and an even more Joyous Christmas

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Chad

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

"We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves" (1 Thess. 5:12-13).

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? Do you have a person or two on your list that you just don't know what to give them? While I know you are running short of ideas...dad doesn't really want another tie, and your kid's teacher doesn't need another coffee mug. It can be nothing short of maddening to try to figure things out in the middle of this busy season!

As stewards of all of life and life's resources, we know that life is more than giving gifts. We stewards never want to take anything the Lord provides for granted. During this season of Advent and Christmas, it is a great idea to do whatever you can to be a faithful steward of your pastor. Even more so than the rest of the year, the demands on their time, their presence and their stewardship of the Gospel in the congregation become heightened.

The demands on pastors can wear them down and wear them out. How does the steward in the congregation serve as a faithful steward of the treasure that is their pastor? Here are a few ideas:

- Put them at the top of your prayer list. Pray that the Lord guards them against the weariness that makes them susceptible to the work of the devil.
- Make worship a priority St. Paul admonishes the Thessalonians and us to respect those who labor among us. There is no greater way to steward your pastor than to respect him enough to show up and receive what he has been sent to offer in the proclamation of the Gospel and administration of the Holy Sacraments.
- Be receptive to his work If your pastor is tasked with calling you to repentance or encouraging you to be in worship, know that he is only caring for your soul.
- Esteem him highly Take the time to thank him for his faithful service to Christ, the congregation and your family.
- Be at peace This is an easy time for even minor annoyances to get blown out of proportion and become full-blown conflict. This not only spoils the season of Advent and Christmas, but it also spoils our stewardship of the Gospel and those who serve us in that Gospel. Remember that Jesus came into the world to be the Prince of Peace. This is an act of grace and mercy. The steward seeks to reflect this toward their pastor and their brothers and sisters in Christ.

Stewardship at Christmas can be a challenge. Stewardship of your pastor during this time of the year is critical to our shared stewardship of the Gospel at a time of year when many are more open to hear and receive it.



2026 Stewardship Campaign Update

The Finance and Stewardship Ministry hopes that you have enjoyed the brief weekly videos provided by church members describing their stewardship initiatives and experiences. The last informational video will be shown the weekend of November 22 and 23. This will conclude our autumn Stewardship campaign, entitled "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace."

To celebrate, the Finance and Stewardship Ministry will be providing cupcakes at the Saturday evening service on November 22 and during the coffee hour on November 23. Please be sure to attend so you can pick up your cupcake.



A reminder, we mailed this year's pledge letter and forms on October 14. A QR code on the letter can be scanned should you wish to pledge online or you can use the QR code to the left or pledge online HERE. If you choose not to pledge online you may return the pledge form to the church office with the envelope provided with the mailing. Contact the church office if you have not received a pledge form and return envelope.

We would appreciate your returning pledges by December 1. Help us reach our goal of 100 pledges for 2026.

Thank you in advance for participating in this year's campaign and helping us to reach our Stewardship goals for 2026.

Bill Robision

Chair



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 DECEMBER is given by Eileen Moore Hartzell in honor of loved ones.

2025-26 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 the remainder of 2025 and 2026 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.

2025 Christmas Eve Sponsorships

We are excited to let you know that, once again you have the opportunity to sponsor Christmas Eve at Grace! This year we're offering multiple sponsorship opportunities, including:



(12) beautiful wreaths from the Scouting America Troop 54/Cub Scout Pack 54 (\$23 each) **

(2) Large Red Poinsettia for on the altar (\$35 each)

(20) 6.5-inch Red Poinsettia for in the sanctuary (\$13 each) Plus, new this year we're introducing ELCA Good Gift Ornament sponsorship in a price range from \$10-\$150 located on the Christmas Tree in the Narthex starting Sunday, November 30.

If you wish to sponsor a Wreath or Poinsettia please contact Diane at ddeppen@gracecamphill.org or 717-737-0439x15 to reserve one before paying. Payment can be made in person with envelope or online HERE or with QR Code above. Please include your dedication with payment.

If you wish to sponsor a ELCA Good Gift Ornament remove one from the tree and turn it in with payment and your dedication. ELCA Good Gifts are not available to pay online.

ALL sponsorships must be received no later than Monday, December 15 to be included in the Christmas Eve newsletter.

**All proceeds from the wreath sponsorship will be given to Scout Troop 54/Cub Pack 54.



Wednesday, December 17 at 7pm in Sanctuary
A service that is meant to acknowledge the pain of loss that often accompanies holidays,
especially Christmas. Join us for an evening of prayer, acknowledgment, remembrance
and a reminder that this world is not the end. This service will be available via Live
Stream as well.

Christmas Eve Family Service

Wednesday, December 24 at 4pm in Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Jazz Service

Wednesday, December 24 at 7pm in Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Traditional Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24 at 9pm in Sanctuary

Join Us for Special Holiday Events at Grace

Advent Event

Sunday, November 23 at 10:30am in the Social Hall

Join us for a time of fellowship, potluck lunch, Christmas karaoke, advent wreath &
gingerbread house making as well as other crafts and more! ALL ages welcome!

Even if you didn't have the opportunity to sign up, please still plan to join us!

Breakfast in Bethlehem

Saturday, December 20 at 10am in the Social Hall
Enjoy a delicious breakfast, printed photo with Santa and Kids crafts. For more information contact Julie Flook at flook6@gmail.com or 717-514-7451.





True prayer is a way of life, not just for use in cases of emergency. Make it a habit, and when the need arises you will be in practice.

BILLY GRAHAM



We hold in prayer especially this month...

Joe Swank, Halie Osswald, Donna Crossley, Steve Behr, Mary Louise Shetter, Dave Hawkins, Lisa Miller, Ed Klemmer, Barry Fenicle, Beverly Earhart, Amy Vogel, Alice M., Dean Jury and friends & family of Dave Rowland.

We hold in Ongoing prayer this month...

Mary Mensah, Judi Fenicle, Nancy, Mark Weber, Susan Atwood, Pete Psichogis, Paul & Linda Glance, and Kay King.

We hold in prayer the recently departed....

Dave Rowland

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

Gladys Cline, Joan Harman, Howard Lauver, Lou Lore, Patti Reed, Bob Rhodes, 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 be added to the "out loud" prayers or the "ongoing" prayers.

From the Church Council

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Council Actions - November 2025

- 1. The Budget was presented and will be presented to the Congregation at the January Congregational Meeting.
- 2. The Finance & Stewardship Ministry is continuing the stewardship pledge drive. So far 49 pledges have been received. The goal is 100 pledges.
- Council discussed various cost saving measures in regard to the cost of office supplies and the cost of WIFI at the Kentland Retreat Center.
- 4. Council has decided to allow a Community Aid Bin to be placed in the overflow parking lot to benefit Family Promise. There will be a six-month trial period.
- 5. Council approved a new member, Suzanne Morris.
- 6. Council approved the baptism of Carson Osswald.
- 7. The Kentland Rental Agreement was revised and discussed. It will be finalized at the next meeting. Chris Jury has offered to assume the role of Rental Manager with Julie Flook assisting.
- 8. Council approved making the sanctuary/chapel available to Parkside Harmony for rehearsals and performances at a cost of \$500 per rehearsal pending their acceptance of the offer.
- 9. Fellowship/Grace & Community Outreach Ministry reported the Strawberry Festival is scheduled for June 27, 2026. Volunteers will be needed.
- 10. Grace's Giving Pantry reported that the Thanksgiving Distribution will take place on November 19.

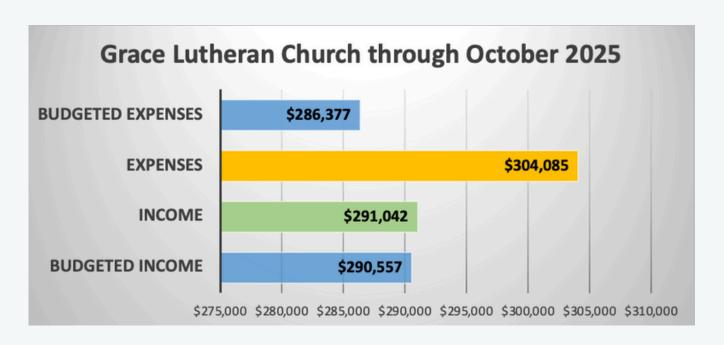
Brigitte Storey Secretary



Members of Grace,

Council is currently preparing the 2026 budget, and pledge cards have been mailed to all members. If you didn't receive one, extra cards are available outside the sanctuary. Your pledges provide essential guidance during an otherwise uncertain budget process, and we're grateful for your support.

Kelly Walker Treasurer





"The Personnel Committee is revamping and reorganizing all of Grace's Policies and Procedures. We are doing this to make volunteering and working at Grace more clear and easy to understand. If you are a leader of a ministry, you will probably be hearing from one of the personnel committee members for a policy/procedure for your specific ministry. The personnel committee is not here to dictate what happens, but rather to organize and communicate with the congregation the policies and procedures in place. Our goal is to become as transparent as possible on the inner workings of Grace. Thank you all!"

Pray Without Ceasing - 2025 Women's Retreat

Some photographs from the 2025 Women's Retreat: Pray Without Ceasing. The retreat was held on November 8-9, 2025.







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. Bible Study will not meet on Tuesday, December 23 nor Tuesday, December 30, 2025.



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 in-between. All opinions, experiences, and perspective are welcome.

Please note neither Group 1 or Group 2 will be having a meeting in December. Gatherings will resume in January 2026. Watch the Events Page on the website, bulletin and This Week at Grace for future updates.

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

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.

Grace Youth Group (GYG)

GYG is for all youth entering 6th grade through their 12th grade year of High School. In December, they will be meeting at 4:45pm on Sunday, December 7 and will have a Christmas Party with caroling and other activities on Sunday, December 21. Contact Ethan Lentz at ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.og for more information.





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.

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. Please contact Ethan Lentz with any questions at ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.org.



The December meeting will be on December 14 at 10:30am

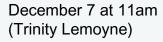


Children's Church During the Sermon

Occurs twice a month. 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 Prayer of the Day and return to the sanctuary in time for communion. It kicks off with Rally Day each year and runs through May.

Confirmation Class September - May

Meet monthly 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 to https://www.gracecamphill.org/faithformation/confirmation.



December 21 at 4:45pm (Grace) Youth Group Christmas Party





Saturday, December 20

Join us in the Social Hall for Breakfast in Bethlehem. Enjoy a delicious breakfast, printed photograph with Santa and kids crafts. For more information contact Julie Flook at flook66@gmail.com or 717-514-7451. All are welcome!

Fall Fest 2025

The nice weather Sunday, November 2 allowed for a wonderful Fall Fest. Thank you so much to everyone who came out, made chili, and organized crafts, games and cooked! Congrats to Jared Weber for winning two years in a row on the chilli cookoff!



















There's nothing quite like a weekend of authentic community with Christian friends to kick-off the new year! Join us for WINTERFEST, our event for high-school youth, young adults and advisors, scheduled for January 2-4, 2026, at the Wyndham Resort, Lancaster.

Youth in grades 9-12, and young adults 18-24, are eligible to attend with their congregation advisors. It's a great way to begin the new year immersed in a loving community of Lutheran peers and leaders. The event cost is \$240 for High School and \$200 for Young Adults (18-24) and Grace will pay half this cost

Upon registering for Winterfest 2026, you must complete the ELCA Lower Susquehanna Synod Medical Form below. Registration Deadline: December 1, 2025. Register on the website at: https://www.gracecamphill.org/events/winterfest.

Or click on the Winterfest Registration QR Code and ELCA Lower Susquehanna Synod (ELCA_LSS)

Medical Form QR Codes below:







Grace Endowment Committee at Work

The GELC Endowment Committee is one of many means through which we here at Grace Lutheran make a difference by serving others through God's love and our faith. The Endowment Committee is responsible for the administration and management of nine endowment funds. These funds were formed through the generosity of past and present members of our church. Some of these members are remembered for their endowment as their names are in the title of the endowment, they established years ago. Other funds were established by the Endowment Committee and past church leaders to aid organizations who through their work extend the mission of our Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. In most cases the principal of each of the funds cannot be used, however the interest generated from the investments is able to be generously given to these organizations.

At our October 21, 2025, meeting the Endowment Committee disbursed funds to the following:

From the Grace Lutheran Evangelical Church General Endowment Fund:

New Hope Ministries: \$500.00

Community check-Up Center \$500.00

Bethesda Mission \$500.00 Family Promise \$500.00

Christian Churches United \$500.00

From the Arthur and Ellen Neal Endowment Fund:

West Shore Meals on Wheels \$500.00

ELCA Campus Ministries \$500.00

*From the Food for the Needy Endowment Fund:

Midwest Food Bank of Middletown \$600.00

*From the Ashway Family Endowment Fund:

United Lutheran Seminary \$250.00

Lutheran Camping Corporation \$250.00

Diakon Wilderness Program: \$250.00

If any church members would like to request a contribution be made to a favorite charity or service organization, from current Endowment Funds, they can submit a written request to any of the current members of the Endowment Committee. The current members are Ted Evans (President of the Endowment Committee), Larry Hoffman (Secretary), Tracy Alfano Douty (Treasurer of the Endowment Committee), Gloria Boyer, Pastor Chad Butz, Alan Gabel, Don Barlup, and Patricia O'Neal (Church Council Liaison).

Also, if anyone is interested in learning more about establishing a new endowment here at Grace Lutheran, please contact Ted Evans who will be happy to provide information about how to proceed with making this valuable contribution to our church. Please know that when you establish an endowment fund using our church's guidelines, it can include your name in the title, or it can be anonymous. You can also direct how the earned interest must be used.

Larry Hoffman, Secretary







December 8, 2025 at 7pm via Zoom

Join us as we discuss our next book "The 100 years of Lenni and Margot" by Marianne Cronin. Contact Melinda Bechtel at mcbbechtel@gmail.com for login information.

An extraordinary friendship. A lifetime of stories. Seventeen-year-old Lenni Pettersson lives on the Terminal Ward at the Glasgow Princess Royal Hospital. Though the teenager has been told she's dying, she still has plenty of living to do. Joining the hospital's arts and crafts class, she meets the magnificent Margot, an 83-year-old, purple-pajama-wearing, fruitcake-eating rebel, who transforms Lenni in ways she never imagined.

As their friendship blooms, a world of stories opens for these unlikely companions who, between them, have been alive for one hundred years. Though their days are dwindling, both are determined to leave their mark on the world. With the help of Lenni's doting palliative care nurse and Father Arthur, the hospital's patient chaplain, Lenni and Margot devise a plan to create one hundred paintings showcasing the stories of the century they have lived—stories of love and loss, of courage and kindness, of unexpected tenderness and pure joy.

Though the end is near, life isn't quite done with these unforgettable women just yet.

Delightfully funny and bittersweet, heartbreaking yet ultimately uplifting, The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot reminds us of the preciousness of life as it considers the legacy we choose to leave, how we influence the lives of others even after we're gone, and the wonder of a friendship that transcends time. From the beautiful cover to the heart-warming story, The One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot is a book that will touch your soul and make you appreciate the beauty of life. This literary fiction novel is one of the best books of all time, and it's perfect for anyone who loves novels about love, grief, and friendship.



Family Promise at Grace

December 28, 2025 - January 4, 2026

There are the following volunteer opportunities during this week as Family Promise is at Grace. There are detailed descriptions on the website at:

https://www.gracecamphill.org/events/family-promise-grace/2025-12-28

Meal Provider: Provide a meal for up to 13 people.

Meal Hosts: Set up the food for serving, eats with the families, offers hospitality. Van Driver: Drive 15-passenger van to and from the church and Day Center at 56

Erford Road, Camp Hill.

For more information contact Susan Ryder at susan@familypromisehcr.org

Community Meal Menu



Taco Salad Spanish Rice Assorted Desserts

December 10 at 5:30pm

December 24

No Community Meal Merry Christmas

The next meal will be on Wednesday, January 14, 2026





Let's Celebrate our December Birthdays

We have some monumental birthdays to share:
Betty Erickson turns 90 years old on December 9 and
Joanne Weaver turns 95 on December 31.
Please take a moment to wish them a happy birthday with
a telephone call or by mailing a card to:

			Betty Erickson 1707 Letchworth Road Camp Hill, PA 17011	Joanne Weaver 5600 Moreland Court Mechanicsburg, PA 17055	
12/1	John Hartman Tom Hooper W. Scott Swartzell	12/9	Betty Erickson Karen Kangas Diane Sakson	12/19 12/20	Ileanna Cato Kelly Walker Hailey Weber
12/2	Nancy Easton Samuel Musselman	12/10	Nancy Hoff Sally Reed	12/21	Jennifer Goetz
12/3	Isabell Progin Marjorie Lebo	12/12	Maria Castillo Courtney Shiley	12/23 12/24	Ariella Behney Patricia Hughes
	Nathan Shields	12/13	Linda Martier	12/26	Craig Douty James Meador
12/4	Patricia Adams	12/14	Ronald Ryerson	12/28	Brian Gross
12/5 12/6	Heidi Hartman Mary Louise Shetter	12/15 12/16	Kelly Smith Alexis Weber	12/31	Craig Helmuth Joanne Weaver

Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young. The greatest thing in life is to keep your mind young.

Henry Ford

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^{**}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.

Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols Sunday, December 6 at 3pm Historic Peace Church St. John's Church Road

After 6 years, it's back! Historic Peace Church proudly presents the return of our Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols — a cherished Christmas service filled with scripture and song. Featuring professional musicians and corporate singing led by Norma Swain. Come celebrate the season through music and the spoken word — a beautiful tradition reborn!



Trinity Concert Series: The Harrisburg Singers Sunday, December 7 at 3pm Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church 2000 Chestnut Street Camp Hill, PA 17011

"Sounds of the Season: Holiday Songs & Cherished Carols"
Susan Solomon Becklye, director
H. Timothy Koch, accompanist
Elizabeth Asmus, Harp

Songs for a Season Sunday, December 14 at 3pm Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church 1610 Carlisle Road, Camp Hill

The Cumberland Singers will be holding a concert at Grace on Sunday, December 14 at 3pm. Join us for our winter concert taking you on a journey through the beauty and magic of the holidays!

For more information: https://www.thecumberlandsingers.org/



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