



Good News from Grace

JANUARY 2026

The Farmer's Almanac predicts that for our area we can expect normal snow falls with a cold and dry climate this winter. The Farmer's Almanac is such a strange thing that us humans do. It's a small example of how we try to predict the future because we don't like uncertainty. According to the Farmer's Almanac, they have an 80% success rate in predicting future weather patterns, but independent studies show that they are correct half of the time. So really, the predictions are just as good as flipping a coin, or leaving it up to chance. I do not mean to demean the Farmer's Almanac, there is a lot of great wisdom in that book. But I do find it funny that we like to think as humans that we are good at predicting the future. But the sad truth is that we are horrible at predicting the future. As soon as we think we have everything figured out, life comes along and thrusts us into something we never saw coming. Religious folks also love to try and predict the future. We love to try and come up with the date and hour of when Jesus will return. We love to try and control God's salvific work in the world. But we are not called to control the world, or God, in fact we are called to give up control. To be a follower is to be willing to give up one's own autonomy for the guidance of the leader. This isn't the easiest thing to do by a long margin. We love having control over our own lives. But what Christ is always trying to remind us is that we never actually have control in the first place, just the illusion of control. God wants to make our lives more simple, and the only way to do that is by giving up our need to control our lives and the outcomes of our lives. Much of religious life is centered around learning to be ok with how life is now and how it will be in the future. In fact, most of religious life is getting our minds and souls ready for the reality that we will one day die. Some may see this as doom and gloom, but for God, this is liberating. It is the realization that we are not God and that life is a precious and short gift. But at the same time, we learn to not be afraid of death, because it is actually natural and good. With Christ we are promised a better life after death, but we must first go through this life, end this life, and end our desire of control, before we can move forward into full communion with God. Predictions of the future are fun, but don't let the desire to control the future, ruin the very real present realities that we have today. Let us this winter learn to live more in the moment. To cherish each and every day, and recognize that even though life may be difficult and short, it is good to be alive. Give your worries and your control over to God and allow the one who came to us as a baby boy, guide you and show you what everlasting life truly looks like. May we learn to die to ourselves, and live through Christ, the new born King. Merry Christmas everyone! May you find joy and freedom this holiday season.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Chad

LCMS Stewardship Ministry

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new. Also, He said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true’ (Revelation 21:5).

In January there is a great deal of “new” talk. Parties are held to ring in the “new” year. “New” year’s resolutions are made to set a “new” course of life in the “new” year. There is date forgetfulness as checks and other forms are filled out without using the “new” year on the dateline.

We use all this “new” talk because there is very often so much wrong with the old in us. We think back to the “new” resolutions from the previous year that only lasted a few weeks. That “new” person did not shed any pounds and instead, picked up a few. The “new” habits of going to the gym were soon replaced by even more time on the couch binging on Netflix. The “new” person who does not lose their temper, use sarcasm as a lethal weapon and spend more money than necessary, but who worships, prays and serves the Lord and the neighbor, never seemed to stick around. We need “new” talk because the Old Adam is alive and well within every one of us.

But this promise of “new” is a matter of stewardship. It is the Lord Himself who makes the promise of all things being new. These words recorded by St. John are not pious wishes or hopeless promises. They do what they say. YOU, that one baptized into Jesus’ death and resurrection, are NEW! These words are indeed trustworthy and true. This “new” comes to you in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It comes free of charge, even without our prayer.

This stewardship of “new” is not a vague, someday kind of stewardship either. You are NEW now! Forgiven. Reborn from above. The old is gone, nailed to Calvary’s cross and buried and rotting in a tomb that was only borrowed by Jesus for His resurrection rest. The Gospel is what makes us NEW every morning. Remembering your baptism, you are new. Confessing your sins and receiving absolution makes you new. Hearing the Gospel filling your ears makes you new. Feasting on Christ’s body and blood in the Holy Supper makes you new.

These mercies, totally undeserved as they are, are entrusted to us to steward TODAY even as we long for the Last Day. But we know how often we fail in this stewardship. We hoard God’s creation as if it belongs to us. We belittle and devalue our neighbor because they look or sound or act in a way that we do not like. We seek to make the Holy Word of God softer and more palatable for those, or even ourselves, who refuse to confess sin as sin and repent. We value our comfort over truth, our reputation over faithfulness and our treasure over making sure that people get to hear of the Jesus who has done so much for the world and us.

We, as stewards of the Gospel, need to be made new every day. This is exactly what the Lord does. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel last year, so He gives us a new year. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel yesterday, and He gives us a new day. We failed in stewardship of the Gospel in the last few minutes, and yet in mercy our newness comes with each tick of the clock! Because that is how the Lord works.

As we see this working of all new things in us, it then calls us to be stewards of this newness to the world. This starts right in our own homes. It radiates out to our neighbors. It beams out from our congregations. This newness is teamed at the circuit, district and Synod levels all to shine the newness of the Gospel to those who need it.

Your new talk starts in the newness of the Gospel. Steward this treasure in this new year and this new day. It starts with a new you in Jesus. This is indeed trustworthy and true.



Family Promise at Grace: December 28, 2025 - January 4, 2026

Family Promise will be at Grace the week of December 28 – January 4, 2026. During that week volunteers are needed to provide meals, host meals, and drive the van from the church and Day Center. If you are interested in helping you can find out more about what is required for each of these duties and sign up to volunteer on the website at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/events/family-promise-grace/2025-12-28>. For more information regarding Family Promise please contact Susan Ryder at susan@familypromisehcr.org.



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

or on
YouTube



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.

Our Purpose

*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 JANUARY is given by
Brian & Lori Small in honor of granddaughter, Zoe's 9th birthday.

The Special Benevolence offering for JANUARY is
GRACE'S GIVING PANTRY. To contribute please
list the dollar amount next to *Special Offering*
Ministry on the envelopes or use this QR Code to
give now or pay online at
<https://www.gracecamphill.org/> and select Online
Giving under the Give tab.



Give Now

2026 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 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.

Annual Budget Congregational Meeting

January 25, 2026

10:30am in-person only





*God speaks in the silence of the heart.
Listening is the beginning of prayer*

Mother Theresa



We hold in prayer especially this month...

Cheryl A, Elaine & Ed Klemmer, Russ Weber, Wendell Mortenson, Howard Lauver, Halie Osswald, Barry Fenicle, Beverly Earhart, Amy Vogel, Alice M., and Dean Jury.

We hold in Ongoing prayer this month...

Dave Hawkins, Steve Behr, Donna Crossley, Joe Swank, Lisa Miller, Mary Mensah, Judi Fenicle, Nancy, Mark Weber, Susan Atwood, Pete Psychogis, Paul & Linda Glance, and Kay King.

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

Gladys Cline, Joan Harman, 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 could 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.



Council Actions - December 2025

1. Pledge Campaign Update: As of December 8, 80 pledges had been received
2. The Community Aid Box to benefit the Grace Giving Pantry will be placed in the parking lot corner, where the previous bin was located.
3. Capital Campaign Update: The plan will be presented to the Congregation during the January Congregational Meeting on January 25, 2026.
4. The Kentland Rental Agreement is in the process of being updated. Final version will be published once council has voted on it.
5. Christmas Services: Blue Christmas service scheduled for December 17 at 7pm. Christmas Eve services will be at 4pm (Family Service w/Christmas pageant); 7pm (Jazz Service) and 9pm (Traditional Service with Special Music Prelude).
6. Faith Formation: The Breakfast in Bethlehem will be held on December 20 from 9-11am.
7. The Grace Giving Pantry will be providing Christmas meal foods on December 17. The Pantry will be closed the following 2 weeks.

Brigitte Storey
Secretary

FROM THE TREASURER

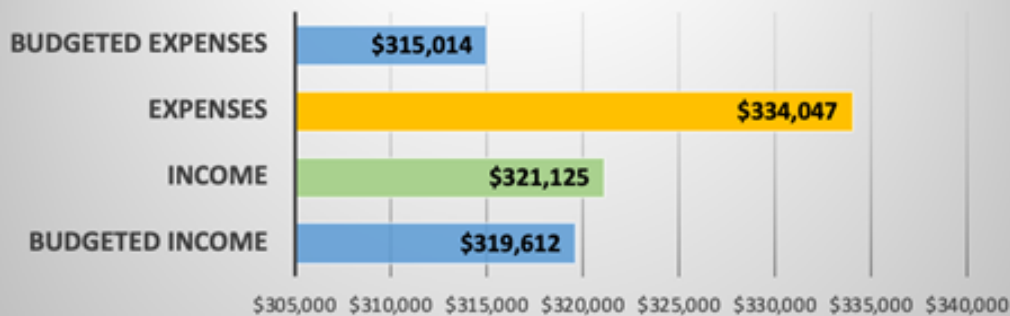


Members and Friends of Grace,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! We are so close to meeting our goal of 100 pledges for 2026! Please help us meet our goal. Council will finalize the 2026 budget in January and we will be sharing it with the congregation shortly after.

Kelly Walker
Treasurer

Grace Lutheran Church through November 2025



FINANCE &
STEWARDSHIP

2026 Stewardship Campaign

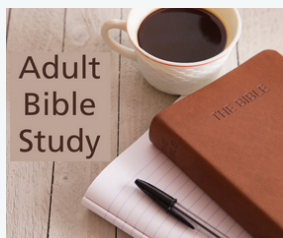
The Finance and Stewardship Ministry hopes that you have enjoyed the brief weekly videos provided by church members describing their stewardship initiatives and experiences. Our Stewardship campaign, entitled "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace" concludes soon.

As of December 15 we have received 90 pledges towards our 2026 Stewardship campaign. This number exceeds last year's total of 83. If you have not had a chance to submit your pledge there is still time to return your pledge form. If you have misplaced your pledge form or did not receive one please contact the church office.

Help us reach our goal of 100 pledges for 2026.

The Finance and Stewardship Ministry thanks you for your support!

Bill Robison, Chair



Adult Bible Study Tuesdays, September - May 1pm

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 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



Some of Grace's high-school youth, young adults and advisors will be attending Winterfest on January 2 - 4, 2026 at the Wyndham Resort in Lancaster. Please pray for that God moves in their lives during this weekend of authentic community with Christian friends.

Lutheran Hands Mission Trip 2026

This year's Summer Mission Trip will be headed to Philadelphia, PA. That's right, on July 5th through July 11th, 2026, LutheranHANDS will be serving within the great state of Pennsylvania for a whole week! We are incredibly excited to be able to serve a city that is so close to home. Our decision to stay within the state emphasizes LutheranHANDS' 2026 mission of getting more involved within our local communities. YOU can make a difference, not only across the country, but especially in your own backyard. We have more local events that we look forward to announcing soon. Until then, keep an eye out for those in your own neighborhoods who could use any type of help. If an opportunity speaks to you, let us know! We'd love to partner with them and with you! If you are interested in attending, or have any questions please contact Ethan at ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.org by **March 8. REGISTRATION DUE: March 22, 2026. Price: TBD**



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. / GYG meets the first & third Sunday each month from 4:45 - 7:30pm. (Calendar may be adjusted). Contact Ethan Lentz at ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.org with any questions. Stay up to date by following us on Facebook, Instagram and join our Band Chat to join in the community! The first meeting of 2026 will be on January 18.

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 first meeting of 2026 will be on January 11.

Junior Youth Group (JYG)



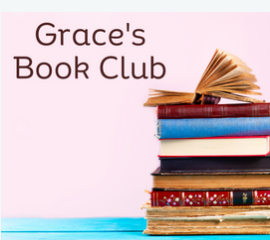
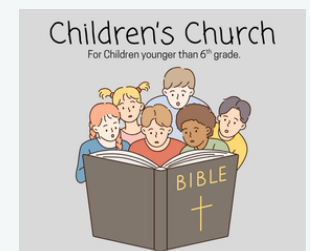
Confirmation Class September - May

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/faith-formation/confirmation>. The first meeting of 2026 will be on Sunday, January 11 at 11am @ Trinity in Lemoyne.

Children's Church 10:00 - 10:15am

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.



Grace Book Club January 12, 2025 at 7pm via Zoom

Due to scheduling conflicts the December meeting was rescheduled to January 12, 2026 at 7pm via zoom. If you didn't have a chance to read "The Hundrend Years of Lenni and Margot" by Marianne Cronin you have an additional month. Contact Melinda Bechtel at mcbbechtel@gmail.com for login information.

Advent Event 2025

The Advent Event was held on Sunday, November 23 this year. Advent wreaths were made, there was some good food to eat and we sang some Christmas songs, karaoke style! Thank you to all who came, planned, and volunteered to make this such a special day!



Alert! Suspicious Text Messages and Emails

Over the last month some suspicious emails and texts have been sent out from someone claiming to be Pastor Chad. There have been multiple attempts of someone impersonating Pastor Chad asking for Macy's gift cards. This is not Pastor Chad, please do not respond or purchase these gift cards, it is a SCAM. Pastor Chad has not been hacked; someone is creating multiple different Gmail accounts using Pastor Chads name and title. If you ever feel like an email is suspicious, please talk to Pastor Chad directly in person or via phone before responding via email.

Please remember Grace Lutheran Church will never ask for your personal information, discreet favors, money, bank transfers, gift cards, etc. over email or text.

Thank you!



2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month

Community Meal Menu 5:30pm in the Social Hall

January 14

Taco Salad
Mexican Rice
Assorted Desserts

January 28

General Tso's over Rice
Spring Roll or Egg Roll
Broccoli
Assorted Desserts



Let's Celebrate our January Birthdays

We have a monumental birthday to share:

Gladys Cline turns 101 on January 10.

Please take a moment to wish her a happy birthday with a telephone call or by mailing a card to:

Gladys Cline
153 Logan Road
Room 208
Dillsburg, PA 17019

1/1	Mia Hooper Ben Walker	1/13	Jen Graf	1/23	Michael Morrow Collette Runkle Lisa Shenck
1/3	G. Robert Little	1/14	Wilson Castillo Kayden Hall Krystal Hall	1/25	Claire Seeger
1/4	Mike Hartman Anna Stopfel Brigitte Storey		Madelyn Kase Russell Weber	1/26	Victoria Whitcomb
1/6	Elena Ryerson	1/15	Sharon Statler	1/27	Robert Gill
1/8	Alton Hughes Sue Kaufmann	1/16	George B. Osswald	1/28	Lynn Budzinski Tanya Good
1/10	Gladys Cline Addison McInnes	1/18	Steve Flook	1/31	Bonnie Barton
1/12	Chris Jury Karen Jury Sierra Pautz	1/19	Chaney Helman Caitlyn Robison		
		1/20	Gabriel Angus		
		1/22	Barry Hoover		

“

**Beautiful young people are
accidents of nature, but beautiful
old people are works of art.**

Eleanor Roosevelt

”

***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.

Chicken & Waffles at Camp Nawakwa

January 18, 2026 | 12pm - 2pm | 1033 Nawakwa Road, Biglerville, PA 17307

Join Nawakwa for a cozy Chicken & Waffles meal on January 18, 2026 from 12pm - 2pm. 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 to <https://www.lutherancamping.org/rsvp/?rsvp=3643> or call 717-677-8211.

Winter Fund Days at Camp Kirchenwald

January 18, 2026 | 1pm - 5pm | 1 Cut Off Road, Lebanon, PA 17042

Experience Winter Fun Day at Kirchenwald on January 18, 2026 from 1pm - 6pm, 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!

DAUPHIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:
Justin Douglas | Mike Pries | George P. Hartwick, III



Winter Discovery!

Winter at the Park!



What do critters do in Winter?
Visit the Olewine Nature Center, where the special exhibits and activities will highlight the magic of our winter world. Follow self-guided signs along the Towpath Trail and enhance your outdoor experience while learning about the natural history of Wildwood Park and animals in winter.

December 9 thru January 31
10am to 4pm daily
(closed Mondays, Dec. 24, Dec. 25 and Jan. 1)

100 Wildwood Way | Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 221-0292 | explorewildwoodpark.org



Celebrating 250 years of America! The PA Farm Show from January 10 - 17, 2026 will be having themed contests throughout the departments. Go to <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/farmshow/pa-farm-show> for more information and daily schedules.



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