



Good News from Grace

FEBRUARY 2026

"From dust you were created, to dust you shall return."

This is the theme of Ash Wednesday. It is a reminder that we were created, that we were created from the ground, from basic material, and that one day, we will die and be reunited with that from which we were created. It doesn't mention anything about our spirit, or our salvation, or heaven, or hell. It just tells us, you were created from nature, and you will return to nature. For me, there is something comforting in the fact that our lives truly are interconnected with all that exists and that has existed. That we aren't more special because we are human, but that all of creation is formed, exists and dies from the same building blocks, the same Spirit. Its humbling to know that the building blocks that made our ancestors, that made the trees, that made the animals, the air, the sea, the cosmos, are no different than the building blocks that make us. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are borrowing this life of ours, and that it isn't ours to own. That this experience that we call life, is but a rental agreement with God and the rest of creation. All things in this world are just trying to extend their stay in this apartment we call life, as long as we possibly can. The good news is that Ash Wednesday is not the end of the story, it is the beginning of the process. The process to recognizing that we do not have control over our lives, and that what we have is not ours to own, but ours to borrow and steward. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we only have so much time to rent out this life of ours, and asks us to think about how we plan to use this time that we have. Lent then guides us to see that the true purpose of this life that we are given, is to learn how to follow the ways of the Lord. To learn how to see God in all that was, is and ever will be. To learn to see the divinity, not only in all of humanity, but all of creation. To recognize that the dust that makes up you and me is the same dust that makes up animals, trees, rocks and the cosmos. Lent gives us the perspective of creation vs creator. Finally, Easter reminds us that the Creator loves the creation. We are called to "know our place" in creation, not in a derogatory sense, but in a sense of surrender to the one who actually is in control, God. More importantly, it reminds us that if God truly is in control, then when God says that we are loved, and welcomed into the eternal kingdom, then we can take that seriously and believe it. Heaven isn't a fairytale, it is the spiritual reality that these dust bodies of ours will perish, but the spirits that reside in them will live on forever in the presence and love of the one who created them. May your lenten journeys be ones of discovery and rediscovery of who you are and whose you are.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Chad

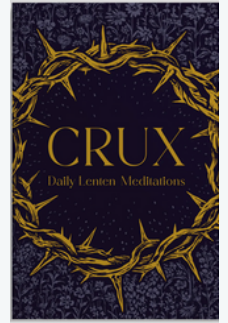




Lenten Services and Events at Grace

Pastor Chad's Lenten Devotional

For Pastor Chad's Lenten Devotional this year, he will be reading: *Crux: Daily Lenten Meditations*. It is a Catholic lenten meditation devotional, so there will be some things that us Lutherans don't agree with. But on the whole, I believe it will help center us in Christ and remind us to put our faith in Jesus, and not in ourselves. According to Ascension Press, "You will read through the entirety of the Gospel of Mark, reflecting on your identity as God's beloved child, and you'll respond through prayer and practical action." If you would like to follow along with Pastor Chad this coming Lent, let the office know that you would like a copy. Copies are \$8 each and should be requested by February 8. Books will be available before Ash Wednesday, February 18th. *Make checks payable to Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.*



Burning of the Palms - February 15 at 10:30am

Join us after worship at 10:30am on Sunday, February 15 in the parking lot as we burn last year's palms for Ash Wednesday.

Shrove Tuesday - February 17 at 6:00pm

Join us on Tuesday, February 17 at 6pm in the Social Hall for hot dogs, soup some famous Snively Sticky Buns and other desserts and Bingo! We will take a free will offering. Please sign up using the QR Code or at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/events/shrove-tuesday-event/2026-02-17> or in the parking lot hallway.



Ash Wednesday - February 18th at 7:00pm

Ash Wednesday kicks off Lent. During this service we apply ashes to each other's foreheads in the sign of the cross stating, from dust you were created, to dust you shall return. Ash Wednesday reminds us that life is not forever. It reminds us that just like Jesus, we too will die. But it also reminds us, through the sign of the cross, that we do not die alone. That we die with Jesus, which means, we will also rise like Jesus. The old creation must die, for the new creation to live.



Multi-Generational Lent Event - February 22 at 10:30am

Join us on Sunday, February 22 at 10:30am in the Social Hall. Come and get ready for Lent, make a Lutheran Rosary, Pretzels and more! Please sign up in the parking lot hallway, by using the QR Code or at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/events/multi-generational-lent-event/2026-02-22>.



Mid-Week Lenten Studies

Join us each week during Lent for a Mid-Week Lenten Study via Zoom from 7:00 - 8:00pm. *Please note that Wednesday, March 11 will be in-person in the Social Hall.*

- Wednesday, February 25: Paschal Meal/Sedar
- Wednesday, March 4: Maundy Thursday
- Wednesday, March 11: Dinner Church **(In-person only. No Zoom meeting)**
The confirmands will be serving and leading a dinner church during the community meal. Come and support our confirmands and learn about the origins of Holy Communion!
- Wednesday, March 18: Good Friday
- Wednesday, March 25: Holy Saturday



Easter Potluck – Sunday, March 8

SAVE THE DATE: The Easter Potluck will be on Sunday, March 8 from 10:30am - 12noon in the Social Hall. There will be an Easter egg hunt as well.



Holy Week Services at Grace

Passion/Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29 at 9:30am in the Sanctuary
In-Person and on online via [Live Stream](#) or [YouTube](#).

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 2 at 12:00pm in Barkley Chapel
In-Person Only

Thursday, April 2 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary
In-Person and on online via [Live Stream](#) or [YouTube](#).

Good Friday

Friday, April 3 at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary
In-Person and on online via [Live Stream](#) or [YouTube](#).

Holy Saturday

Saturday April 4 at 4:30pm in the Library and Barkley Chapel
In-Person Only



Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 5 at 9:30am in the Sanctuary
In-Person and on online via [Live Stream](#) or [YouTube](#).

Table of Duties: The Forgotten Stewardship Tool

Luther's Small Catechism is a magnificent tool. Joined with a well-used copy of the Holy Scriptures and an orthodox hymnal, and the Christian is well equipped to live a life of faithfulness to the Lord and service to the neighbor. First in German and now in English and just about any language known to man, this handy masterpiece has introduced generations of people to the central doctrine of justification by grace, through faith, on account of Jesus Christ. The Six Chief Parts have proven to be a faithful framework for a clear confession of the truth of the Gospel for nearly five hundred years!

But more than a textbook, the Small Catechism also serves well as a handbook for Christian living. As a part of its treasure, there is an element that teaches an extraordinarily strong message of stewardship. That hidden treasure that needs to be rediscovered is called the Table of Duties.

The Table of Duties is really nothing more than a categorized gathering of Bible verses. These verses are set apart for "various holy orders and positions, admonishing them about their duties and responsibilities." Addressing pastors and people, government and citizens, husbands, wives, children, youth, workers and so many more, it very clearly lays out what faithful stewardship looks like. Even better, these assembled passages teach one important truth: we are stewards of one another!

The Table is much more than a "how-to" tool; it also lays out the interconnectedness that exists within the body of Christ. Pastors are described by what they are to be as stewards of the Word. 1 Timothy 3 highlights the characteristics of a faithful pastor. Even more, Titus 1 highlights the need for the pastor to be faithful for the sake of those under his care.

Those who hear the faithful preaching of the pastor are stewards of the pastor as well. 1 Corinthians 9 talks about the need for the people to support the livelihood of the pastor. Galatians 6 talks about how the hearers share in the good things that the pastor teaches. 1 Timothy 6 talks about the honor that is owed to the pastor, not because of WHO he is, but rather WHAT he is teaching! Hebrews 13 shows the impact of this stewardship on the pastor, that they perform their duties with joy. Joyful pastors and people are always going to be better stewards of the Gospel!

Outside the church this interdependent stewardship is on display as well. Romans 13 highlights the respect necessary for the governing authorities. As citizens, the faithful steward is called to pay taxes (Matthew 22), pray for their leaders (1 Timothy 2) and that they should be ready to serve in the civil realm (Titus 3), because they are in these positions by God's direction (1 Peter 2).

These steward duties are in the home too! 1 Peter 3 and Colossians 3 shape the husband steward. Ephesians 5 and 1 Peter 3 shape the wife steward. Ephesians 6 form parental stewards and child stewards.

The Table of Duties is a wonderful place for the individual steward to learn how much our stewardship is more than just a "me and Jesus thing!" In fact, it ends with these words: "Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well share fare." This is interdependent stewardship on clear display. As each learns stewardship in this way, the more faithful we will be as a family, congregations, communities and the church at large.



2026 Stewardship Campaign Results

The Finance and Stewardship Ministry thanks the congregation for their support of the 2026 Stewardship Pledge Campaign. Our Stewardship campaign, entitled "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace" is formally concluded.

As of January we received 94 pledges for an amount of \$261,158.40. This represents 11 more pledges than last year, 18 more than 2024, and 33 more than 2023. The amount pledged is \$31,559 more than last year. The trend is certainly positive and reflects most positively on us as a congregation.

Although the campaign is formally concluded, it is never too late to pledge. Pledge forms are available in the narthex or you may contact the church office for a form. Again, the Finance and Stewardship Ministry thanks you for your support of Grace's mission in the community and the world.

This Month at Grace

The Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship for FEBRUARY is given by Diane Deppen in memory of her father, Frank Moore, and in honor of her mother, Eileen Moore Hartzell.

The Special Benevolence offering for FEBRUARY is Scouting America - Scout Troop 54/Cub Scout Pack 54. 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

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

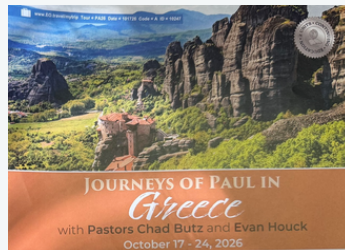
*The purpose of our church is to
make a difference by serving
others through God's love and our
faith.*

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.



Journeys of Paul in Greece with Pastor Chad Butz and Evan Houck October 17-24, 2026

We would love to have you join us as we explore the journey of Paul in Greece. Paul is one of, if not the most, influential theologian for the Christian church as we know it. Come and see the first hand the places that he walked and ministered through. We will be departing October 17th and returning on the 24th. There is an optional cruise to extend your journey. Looking forward to entering into this pilgrimage with you all!

You can find out more information regarding the trip and how to sign up on the website at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/faith-formation/journeys-of-paul-in-greece> or by scanning the QR code to the left





None can believe how powerful prayer is, and what it is able to effect, but those who have learned it by experience. It is a great matter when in extreme need to take hold on prayer.

Martin Luther



We hold in prayer especially this month...

Judy Michael, Julia, Carson Osswald, Larry Hoffman, Carolyn Houck, Cheryl A., Elaine & Ed Klemmer, Howard Lauver, Halie Osswald, Beverly Earhart, Amy Vogel, Alice M., and Dean Jury.

We hold in Ongoing prayer this month...

Eileen Moore Hartzell, Barry Fenicle, Wendell Mortenson, Vicki Whitcomb, Mary Mensah, Nancy, 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

The following actions occurred at the December Council meeting:

1. The Congregational Budget meeting will be on January 25, following the 9:30 service.
2. The treasurer presented the final budget of the year and the projected 2026 budget. Both will be presented to the Congregation on January 25.
3. The refurbishing of the prior “Library” is ongoing and will include an updated coffee area, new comfortable seating corner and new flooring.
4. We will need at least one new council member later this year.
5. We will need volunteers to serve as Grace Representatives at this year’s Synod Assembly some time in June. See Pastor Chad if interested.
6. Council approved the creation of a task force to evaluate the availability use of space within the building.
7. The Altar Guild needs more members. If interested, please see Pastor Chad.

Brigitte Storey
Secretary



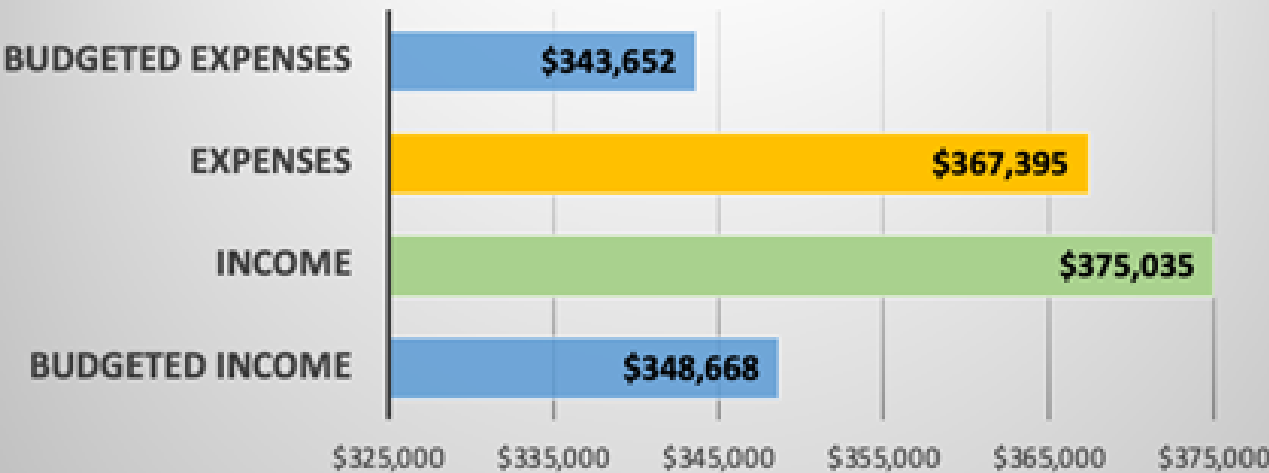
Members and Friends of Grace,

As we close out the year, I’m happy to share that our income exceeded expenses, leaving us in a strong financial position. Thanks to your faithful generosity, we also came very close to reaching our goal of 100 pledges. Your continued support makes our ministry possible, and we are deeply grateful as we look ahead to the year to come.

Happy New Year!

Kelly Walker
Treasurer

Grace Lutheran Church through December 2025





Grace Book Club - February 23, 2026

The book club will be reading "The Correspondent" by Virginia Evans.

"Imagine, the letters one has sent out into the world, the letters received back in turn, are like the pieces of a magnificent puzzle. . . . Isn't there something wonderful in that, to think that a story of one's life is preserved in some way, that this very letter may one day mean something, even if it is a very small thing, to someone?"

Filled with knowledge that only comes from a life fully lived, *The Correspondent* is a gem of a novel about the power of finding solace in literature and connection with people we might never meet in person. It is about the hubris of youth and the wisdom of old age, and the mistakes and acts of kindness that occur during a lifetime.

Sybil Van Antwerp has throughout her life used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings, around half past ten, Sybil sits down to write letters—to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to audit a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter.

Sybil expects her world to go on as it always has—a mother, grandmother, wife, divorcee, distinguished lawyer, she has lived a very full life. But when letters from someone in her past force her to examine one of the most painful periods of her life, she realizes that the letter she has been writing over the years needs to be read and that she cannot move forward until she finds it in her heart to offer forgiveness.

Sybil Van Antwerp's life of letters might be "a very small thing," but she also might be one of the most memorable characters you will ever read.

"The Correspondent is this year's breakout novel no one saw coming."—*The Wall Street Journal*

Join us on Monday, February 23 at 7pm via Zoom for the discussion of this book. Contact Melinda Bechtel at mcbbechtel@gmail.com for login information

Grace Altar Guild



From the Altar Guild

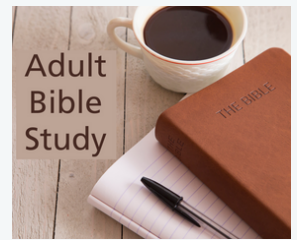
There is a need for several more people to serve on the Altar Guild. Duties include set-up and clean-up of communion for the Saturday night and Sunday services, funeral services that include communion, and other services that are scheduled during the year such as Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services. Also, the Altar Guild is responsible for placing the appropriate colored paraments at the altar and lectern according to the church year. Currently, there are two people serving in this way. If you are able and willing to serve on the Altar Guild or would like additional information, please contact Beth Jury at drjury11@gmail.com or 717-712-5122 or Bonnie Barton (Council Liaison for the Altar Guild) at mbbarton3@gmail.com or 717-991-3661. Thank you in advance for considering this important contribution of your time.

Adult Bible Study

Tuesdays, September - May

1pm in the Small Conference Room

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.

Watch the Events Page on the website, bulletin and This Week at Grace for information as to when the groups are meeting.

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

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 - But no greater than \$525.



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 next meeting will be at 11am on Sunday, February 22 at Grace.

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.

Children's Church

For Children younger than 6th grade.



GYG Spaghetti Dinner - Dessert Sign Up

GYG will be holding a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, March 28 from 6-8pm. They will be serving spaghetti with meat sauce and an optional veggie sauce as well as having gluten free pasta available. There will be garlic bread and a side salad with each meal as well as a dessert table. Tickets will be \$10 and will be going on sale at worship services prior to the event. Watch the newsletter and This Week at Grace for more details closer to the date.

We are requesting people sign up now to provide desserts for this event on the Fellowship Board in the parking lot hallway, by using the QR code or online at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/events/youth-groups-spaghetti-dinner--40>



WINTERFEST

Building Authentic Christian Community

Some images from Winterfest 2025



Community Meal Menu

5:30pm in the Social Hall

February 11

TBD

Assorted Desserts

February 25

TBD

Assorted Desserts



Let's Celebrate our February Birthdays

We have a monumental birthday to share:

Nancy Whitcomb turns 94 on February 8.

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

Nancy Whitcomb

335 Wesley Drive

Apt. 403

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

2/1	Emily Hartman	2/9	Leah Allewelt Melinda Bechtel	2/23	Ian Fry
2/2	Star Peiffer		Gregory Kincaid	2/24	Lori Small-Greenly Jeff Painter
2/3	Thomas Boyer (Gloria) David Hawkins Carson Osswald	2/11	Landon Flook	2/25	Sarah Erb Lauren Weber
2/6	Danica Pautz	2/12	Judy Zeiders	2/26	Mary Banaszewski Dylan Moser Aaron Shenck
2/8	Nancy Whitcomb Molly Youse	2/18	Jarryd Erb		
		2/19	Beverly Lerew Mya Sheesley		
		2/20	Noel Caron		
		2/22	Samuel Hartman		

“

Count your age by friends. not
years. Count your life by smiles. not
tears.

John Lennon

”

***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.

Downtown Carlisle's 10th Annual Ice Artfest

February 6-8, 2026 | Begins Friday at 4pm; Ends Sunday at 3pm | Downtown Carlisle

Over 100 Ice Sculptures throughout Downtown Carlisle! New this year: The Snowy Play Zone at the CC Historical Society Parking Lot - Enter at the gate on W. High Street. Cost: \$5 per person, Kids 3 and under are Free! Live Ice Carvings in front of the Old Courthouse on the square on Saturday, February 7 at 11am & 1pm.

Take Your Child to the Library Celebration

February 7, 2026 | 10:30am - 12:00pm | Simpson Public Library (16 North Walnut Street, Mechanicsburg)

The first Saturday of February is Take Your Child to the Library Day! When you bring your child to the Simpson Library on February 7, stop by the meeting rooms on the lower level for crafts, games, and activities. Drop in from 10:30am - 12:00pm. No registration required. Audience: Ages 0-5/Preschool and Ages 6-11/Grades K-5.

Music at the Spring: The Great American Songbook with Jeff Coon

February 15, 2026 | 3pm | Trindle Spring Lutheran Church (14 State Road, Mechanicsburg)

Features songs from the Great American Songbook. From Irving Berlin to Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra to Lady Gaga, performers have for decades loved singing this repertoire almost as much as audiences have loved hearing it. While these songs were originally written in the early-mid 20th century for Broadway and Hollywood, they have stood the test of time. We are thrilled to welcome back Music at the Spring favorite Jeff Coon for an afternoon of songs like "Cheek to Cheek", "Moon River", and many more. Concert is free and open to the public!

The Baltimore Consort

February 22, 2026 | 4pm | First Evangelical Lutheran Church (100 East High Street, Carlisle)

Founded in 1980 to perform the instrumental music of Shakespeare's time, The Baltimore Consort has explored early English, Scottish, and French popular music, focusing on the relationship between folk and art song and dance. Their interest in early music of English/Scottish heritage has also led them to delve into the rich trove of traditional music preserved in North America. The Consort's February program, "In Angel's Wede - Music for Mary Queen of Scots," features music that illustrates the different periods in her life. To learn more, visit <https://baltimoreconsort.com>

Music at Bosler: Purple Sunrise Trio

February 27, 2026 | 7-8pm | Bosler Library (158 West High Street, Carlisle)

Join the Purple Sunrise Trio for a great performance of classic rock, plus a few surprises in Meeting Room A&B at the Bosler Library. Audience: Ages 19+



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