



# Good News from Grace

MARCH 2026

## “How will we listen?”

Our culture is about getting what we as the individual want. Our current political and economic systems are designed to be very focused on the desires of the individuals. We as Americans, have created something that puts each individual person at the center of their own individual universes. For much of human history, this concept of hyper-individualism was completely foreign. The group and its traditions, culture, survival, was always at the forefront of ancient peoples' minds. Sure, there was always a sense of self preservation, but society as a whole encouraged sacrifice for the greater good. But in today's modern America, too often we have a difficult time sacrificing for the greater good. Because the promise in America, is not one of relationship, companionship, or group cohesion. Rather, its the promise of individualized prosperity. In this framework, there is not much encouragement for listening and hearing. When our entire lives are focused on “making it,” we are encouraged and subconsciously creating, social blinders. Because “making it” in America, isn't about the whole, its about the individual. We have a bias as Americans, where we think that Jesus came to save the individual. When in fact, God, in the Bible, rarely saves individuals, he saves a group of people. He uses individuals, for sure, but they are never the end goal. The individual is always a tool to gain access to the group. The Israelites were God's chosen people, and Moses, Abraham, David, and all the prophets were tools to help God's plan unfold for the group. Salvation is not given as a means to save the one. Salvation is given as a means to save the many. The entirety of the Bible pushes us outward. It pushes us beyond the walls of the self, and into the open fields of the masses. Love the enemy, the neighbor, the outcast, says Jesus. Jesus didn't say these things just because he wanted us to be nice to one another. He said these things, because the salvation of the world isn't for the individual, its for the masses. And to hold the true treasure for ourselves, is to completely misunderstand the ways of God. Listening gives us the ability to expand our horizons. To truly hear and experience what God is doing in the world, and not just in our own lives. When we learn to listen and hear the other, we start to live the way God always intended. “How will we listen?” Let this Lenten season be a revitalization on our relationship with God. May God's word be heard not just in our own hearts, but in the hearts of the masses. We are God's people, all chosen, all called, to live lives of love, mercy and compassion. To be the example to the world, on what true community, true God breathed love looks like. Let us listen to the whispers of God in each other, to the Spirit's guidance, and to the margins of society, where the light of God beams brightest. Blessings on your Lenten journeys, may God's voice be clear, and may you have hearts to hear.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Chad



## 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](#).

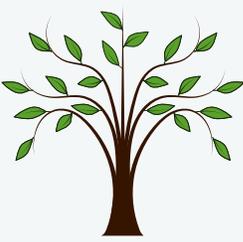
### Holy Saturday

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](#).



## LCMS Stewardship - March 2026

As a kid, I remember my Grandma and Grandpa Diepholz' home with extraordinary joy. Family fun. Great food. A legacy of faith. One of my lasting memories of that house was the table that sat between their twin beds. It contained a lamp, a Bible, a catechism and a hymnal. These were well-worn, as Grandpa read to Grandma every night before they went to sleep! What a treasure these tools of faith are! Let us spend some time this month in the hymnal to help us better understand our life as Christian stewards! To do this, we will use LSB 785 "We Praise You, O God."

We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
In grateful devotion our tributes we bring.  
We lay it before You, and kneel and adore You;  
We bless Your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Stewardship is an act of worship. It flows from the grace and mercy we have received in Jesus! Faithful stewardship can never start with us. Our sinful nature will make us and our desires the center of our worship. Our tributes, our giving and our serving only flow from how the Lord Jesus has given of Himself for our sake! When we have this in clear view, our knees bow and our praises flow freely! All this flows from the Name that has been placed on us in Holy Baptism!

We worship You, God of our Fathers, we bless You;  
Through trial and tempest our guide You have been.  
When perils o'ertake us, You will not forsake us,  
And with Your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

Our stewardship that flows from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is rooted in history. Passed from one generation to the next, stewards of the Gospel connect God's provision in the past to His continued care in the present.

So often, the struggles we face are self-inflicted. While there are indeed perils that can shake us from outside of ourselves, we are more likely enduring the suffering that comes because of our own choices that are outside the Word and will of God! But even in these situations, the Lord who loves us will never forsake us. When we become selfish, self-serving and self-destructive, the Lord NEVER abandons! The Lord helps us to overcome the struggles in faith and win the victory the steward rejoices in!

With voices united our praises we offer  
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With You, Lord, beside us, Your strong arm will guide us.  
To You, our great redeemer, forever be praise!

Stewardship is more than just an individual thing. There is a corporate nature to our steward life. We see this in the Divine Service. There, stewards of all ages, all economic strata and all languages are joined in the singular task of praise. This stewardship of praise flows from the altar to us, out into the world and then back to the altar! God's strong arm leads us in this stewardship 24/7. This makes stewardship, in all times and places, a matter of worship. We praise our Redeemer who has entrusted us with this great stewardship of the Gospel which forgives our sins, grants us new life and salvation. And this treasure we freely share for God's glory and the benefit of our neighbor!

## This Month at Grace

The Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship for MARCH is given by Brian & Lori Small in honor of grandson Micah's 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

The Special Benevolence offering for MARCH is Link 4 Youth (Medard's House). 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](mailto:ddeppen@gracecamphill.org).

## 2026 Easter Flower Sponsorships

Once again this year we will have the opportunity to sponsor flowers for Easter Sunday - Easter Lilies and Tulips. These flowers will be available to be taken home after worship on Easter Sunday or arrangements can be made to pick them up at the church Tuesday, April 7 - Thursday, April 9, 2026 by contacting the office at [office@gracecamphill.org](mailto:office@gracecamphill.org) or 717-737-0439. Any flowers remaining at the church after Sunday, April 12 will be taken to homebound members.

At this time we do not yet have quantity amounts or pricing for these sponsorships. Please watch the This Week at Grace for future updates.





*Any concern too small to be turned into a prayer is too small to be made into a burden*

Corrie Ten Boom



### **We hold in prayer especially this month...**

Bob Heintzelman, Kim Yoffee, Steve Behr, Jaclyn Atkins, Robert Schwitzer, Cheryl A., Howard Lauver, Amy Vogel, Alice M., Dean Jury and the friends & family of Bernie Zegarowski.

### **We hold in Ongoing prayer this month...**

Judy Michael, Julia, Halie Osswald, Carson Osswald, Larry Hoffman, Beverly Earhart, Elaine & Ed Klemmer, Mary Mensah, Nancy, Susan Atwood, Pete Psychogis, Paul & Linda Gance, 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.

### **We hold in prayer the recetly departed...**

Bernie Zegarowski

#### 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.

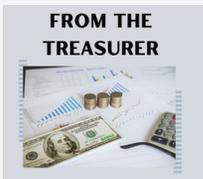


## Council Actions

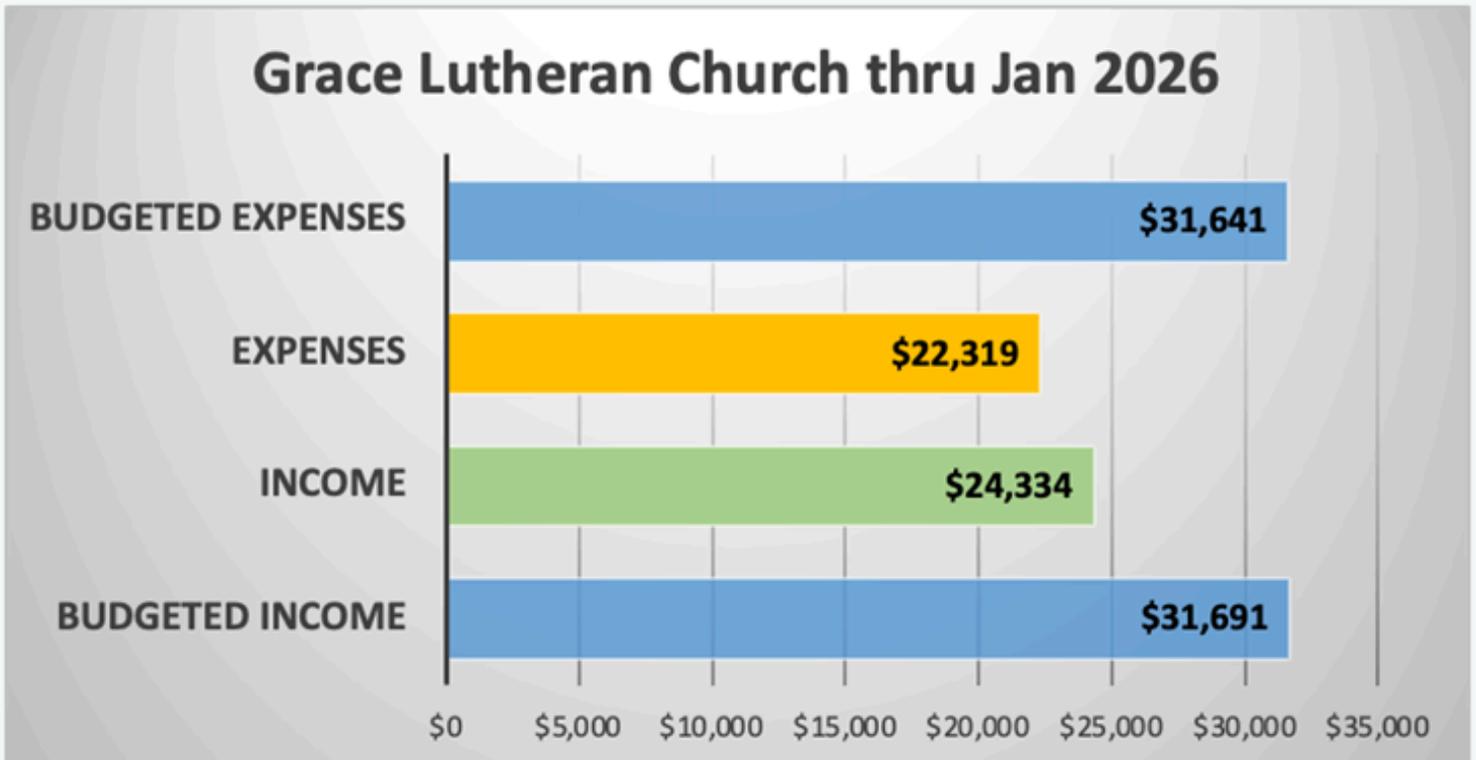
### Council Meeting February 9, 2026 Summary of Council Actions

1. Council accepted the resignation of council member Steve Behr.
2. Council is actively searching for new council member applicants for next year.
3. Council accepted the resignation of Treasurer Kelly Walker as of next June. A new Treasurer will need to be recruited.
4. Council approved the Baptism of Emma Enrico.
5. Council added a new committee, Civic Engagement and Justice. This committee is currently exploring the needs of the community.
6. Council has declined a proposal to allow Saturday evening attendees to vote on issues which will be presented in Congregational Meetings. The reason is that we do not have the power to do this as it would involve a change of the Constitution, which has to come from the Synod. Council however has approved a motion to allow Saturday attendees to attend and vote via Zoom during the Sunday meetings, once proper procedures have been established.

Brigitte Storey  
Secretary



Kelly Walker  
Treasurer



## **Grace's New Pastor for Spiritual Formation**

The Pastor for Spiritual Formation will be a source of guidance and mutual growth for those participating. The Pastor's major role will be providing opportunities for members and non-members to experience, listen and follow the call of the Holy Spirit in their lives. They will assist the Senior Pastor with Pastoral responsibilities as available and requested by the Senior Pastor. The Pastor for Spiritual Formation will not be considered an associate Pastor and their main responsibility will be toward Spiritual Formations, second will be helping the Senior Pastor.

Spiritual Formation is defined as: the process of listening and being attentive to how God is with us now and always. In Spiritual Formation we are being formed by God in our listening to how the Holy Spirit is calling, shaping and leading us. The Creator, the Savior, the Advocate are speaking to us with a basic message of love for us, for all people, and all creation. Spiritual Formation can occur in one with one, in groups and in community. Spiritual Formation is shaped by intentional practices of prayer, silent listening, meditation and scripture reading. The goal is to lead a more contemplative life and to allow the Holy Spirit to form our character to love God, others, all people and the earth and all creatures. Spiritual Formation always leads us outward in service and care for others and all people.

### **Biography – The Reverend Doctor J. Richard Eckert**

The Reverend Doctor J. Richard Eckert was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on June 23, 1974. Following his ordination, he was called to serve as Pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Penbrook, Pennsylvania where he served from July 1, 1974, until June 30, 1992.

In March 1992, Pastor Eckert accepted a new call to serve as Pastor of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middletown, Pennsylvania. He began his ministry there on July 1, 1992, and served the congregation until his retirement on October 31, 2021. During these years, he also provided leadership beyond the local congregation, serving as Dean of the Harrisburg Conference and completing four three-year terms on the Synod Council.

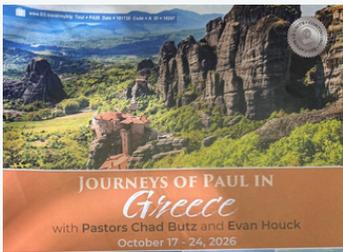
Following his retirement on November 1, 2021, Pastor Eckert continued to serve the church. From January 1, 2023, through May 31, 2025, he was honored to serve as Interim Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Liverpool, Pennsylvania.

Throughout his pastoral ministry, Pastor Eckert has been deeply committed to the study and practice of spiritual formation. He earned the Doctor of Ministry degree from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg on May 16, 1986. His three-year program focused on the role of spiritual formation in the art of preaching.

He continued his formation at the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation, earning certificates in Spiritual Direction, Group Spiritual Direction, Contemplative Leadership, and Embracing the Call of the Holy Spirit. In June 2023, he completed a two-year program at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, in Hickory, North Carolina receiving certification as a Spiritual Director. In each congregation he has served, Pastor Eckert has offered individual Spiritual Direction, Group Spiritual Direction, and Contemplative Worship services, nurturing deeper spiritual growth within the body of Christ.

Pastor Eckert and his wife, Kathryn, have been blessed with 53 years of faithful marriage. Together they have three children: Anne, Assistant to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Temple University; Emily, a kindergarten teacher at Sara Lindemuth/Anna Carter Primary School in Susquehanna Township; and Andrew, who works in musical theater and resides in New York City.

Pastor Eckert is grateful for the opportunity to serve as Pastor for Spiritual Formation at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Camp Hill. He prays that the Holy Spirit will guide and enrich the congregation's growth in faith and spiritual formation.



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

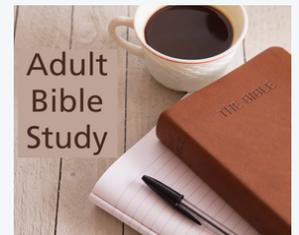
We would love to have you join us as we explore the journey of Paul in Greece. Paul is one of, if not the most, influential theologian for the Christian church as we know it. Come and see the first hand the places that he walked and ministered through. We will be departing October 17th and returning 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



## 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](mailto:pastorchad@gracecamphill.org)

## Mid-Week Lenten Studies

Join Pastor Chad each Wednesday during Lent for a Mid-Week Lenten Study via Zoom from 7:00 - 8:00pm to explore the origins, theology and significance of the various days during Holy Week.

- 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

Go to <https://www.gracecamphill.org/faith-formation/2026-lenten-study> for more information or to join the study.







## GYG Spaghetti Dinner - March 28



GYG's spaghetti dinner is on Saturday, March 28 from 6-8pm. The meal will consist of 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 each for anyone 5 years of age and older. ALL kids under 5 years old are free. Tickets are available in the library after Sunday worship services, online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YV1S/home> or with the QR code to the left and can be purchased at the door on March 22. If you are interested in TAKEOUT please contact Ethan Lentz at [ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.org](mailto:ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.org).



To provide a dessert for the Spaghetti Dinner please sign up by Sunday, March 22 on the Fellowship Board in the parking lot hallway, by using the QR code to the right or online at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/events/youth-groups-spaghetti-dinner--40>.

## 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](mailto:ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.org) by **March 8. REGISTRATION DUE: March 22, 2026. Price: TBD - But no greater than \$525.**



### 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](mailto:drjury11@gmail.com) or 717-712-5122 or Bonnie Barton (Council Liaison for the Altar Guild) at [mbbarton3@gamil.com](mailto:mbbarton3@gamil.com) or 717-991-3661. Thank you in advance for considering this important contribution of your time.



There is a need for several volunteers to serve as Acolytes. This does not have to be youth only. Adults are more than welcome to participate in this capacity. Schedules are sent out quarterly. If you are interested in possibly becoming an Acolyte contact Diane at [ddeppen@gracecamphill.org](mailto:ddeppen@gracecamphill.org) or 717-737-0439 x15. She can send you a sheet on responsibilities or add you to the schedule.



# Let's Celebrate our March Birthdays

*\*\*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.*

3/1	Sarah Chesky Presley Nourse	3/14	Joyce Clark	3/23	Alexander McInnes Harvey White
3/2	Thomas Boyer (Claudia)	3/15	Cyle Helman	3/24	Justin Manlove Byron Schreck
3/3	Susan Dickinson Sandra Robison	3/16	Mark Barton Tracy Evans Joyce Thomas (Cleveland)	3/26	Susan Edwards
3/4	Randy Kauffman Randy Hamme	3/17	Julie Kremer	3/27	Linda Biesecker
3/6	James Lehman Todd Snyder	3/18	Marlene Ulrich	3/28	Heather Pautz Austin Snavelly
3/8	Matthew Easton	3/19	Lauren Campbell Sophia Campbell Eliza Chesky Charles Thomas, Jr.	3/29	Jeffrey Peiffer Grace Reisch
3/9	Tyler Artz	3/21	Gail Feldman Jill Manlove	3/30	Linda Ringer
3/10	Robert Budzinski Tom Pautz	3/22	Don Barlup Kathy Lore	3/31	Ethan Lentz Patricia Rodhe Sharon Swank Laurie Zimmerman
3/11	Logan Walker				
3/12	Isaac Vogelsong				



*We turn not older with years  
but newer every day.*  
Emily Dickinson



## The Community Meal at Grace



2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month

• Menu Subject to Change

## Community Meal Menu \*

### 5:30pm in the Social Hall

All meals include coffee, tea, water and assorted desserts.

#### March 11

Mac-n-Cheese  
Green Beans  
Soup - TBD

#### March 25

Salisbury Steak  
Garlic Mashed Potatoes  
Peas and Carrots  
Soup - TBD

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.

### Ice & Fire Festival

**March 7, 2026 | 11am - 7pm | Harrisburg**

The City of Harrisburg presents the 9<sup>th</sup> annual M&T Bank Ice & Fire Festival on Saturday, March 7, 2026 from 11am - 7pm. This free event will feature 60+ large and small ice sculptures throughout the City and a Downtown street festival with an ice-slide, fire dancers, iceless ice skating, live ice carving, fire pits and smores, performances by local school and community groups, kids activities, vendors, and more. Ice sculptures will be along the Downtown street festival path on North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street and Market Street, as well as City Island, Midtown, Italian Lake, Shipoke, and Reservoir Park. The sculptures will be illuminated starting at 5pm. For more information go to [https://harrisburgpa.gov/events/ice\\_and\\_fire\\_festival.php](https://harrisburgpa.gov/events/ice_and_fire_festival.php)

### Wittel Farm: Spring Equinox Campfire

**March 20, 2026 | 7:00pm | Wittel Farm (1753 Mill Road, Elizabethtown)**

Celebrate the first day of Spring at The Wittel Farm with music, poetry, and sing-along.

### Trinity Concert Series - Seipp/Williams Trumpet and Organ Duo

**March 22, 2026 | 3pm | FREE | Trinity Lutheran Church (2000 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill)**

A unique blend of music and interactive video presentations, the Seipp/Williams Duo enhances the exquisite blend of their instruments with custom arrangements of virtuoso, beautiful, entertaining, humorous, and patriotic selections. Craig Williams is Organist and Choirmaster of the Cadet Chapel, West Point, NY. Dr. Chuck Seipp is Sergeant Major retired from The United States Army Band, "Pershing's Own" in Washington, DC.

### Music at the Spring - Filament

**March 22, 2026 | 3:00pm | Trinity Spring Lutheran Church (14 State Road, Mechanicsburg)**

All concerts are free and open to the public, although a free will offering is taken. For more information regarding this concert go to <https://www.trindlespringlutheran.org/music-at-the-spring.html>

### City Island Roller Rink - Friday & Saturday Nights in March

**March 6 - 28, 2026 | 6-9:0pm | City Island Roller Rink (Carousel Pavilion on City Island)**

Harrisburg Parks & Recreation will be opening the City Island Roller Rink again this March. The Rink will be open Friday and Saturday Nights, starting Friday, March 6 - Saturday, March 28, in the City Island Carousel Pavilion. Family Skate 6:00pm - 7:30pm and Adult Skate 7:30pm - 9:00pm. Children 16 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Attendees 17 and up must provide ID for entrance. Entry Fee: \$5 Skate Rental: \$2 Chips: \$1 Candy \$2



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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[office@gracecamphill.org](mailto:office@gracecamphill.org)

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