



Good News from Grace

APRIL 2026

Happy Easter everyone!!

Christ is Risen, Hallelujah! Christ is risen indeed! For us Christians, Easter is THE moment that everything changed. It is the climax on what this whole God story was all about. The defeat of death and the resurrection of the dead. Easter is the moment that we became a resurrection people. No longer do we have to fear the finality of death, because no longer is death final. Our God, through the person Jesus Christ, has shown us that our God is beyond the realities of this world. That even the most final aspect of life, death, is no match for this God of ours. God has shown us that God does not just live within the realities of this life, but also beyond. That the limits of our reality are not the limits of God's. Hallelujah! Jesus Christ in this moment has shown the world that we do not need to be afraid. That even if our discipleship and our faith leads to a mortal end, our lives live on through Christ. Our fear of running out of time can be put to bed, so that we may live our lives in the timeline of eternity. We are gifted the freedom to know that no matter when we are taken from this life, our existence lives on. That this experience that we have is nothing more than a small part in what God has in store for us. John Green, in one of his Vlog Brother videos states that the reason we are here on this earth is to experience a life with limits, before we experience limitlessness. May we see this limited time we have on this limited planet as a gift. Recognizing that this is purely a chapter in the eternal plan that our creator has for all of us. May we experience all we are called to experience, and live life to the fullest, even if it may not lead to living life the longest. May we see ourselves in the timeline of eternity, and be reminded that we are a resurrection people. People unafraid of death, because the one who saved us, conquered death and has brought us along as his children into the reality of eternity. Easter blessings to you all, and may your lives be filled with love, meaning, purpose, laughter and joy.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Chad





Holy Week Services at Grace

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 online via [Live Stream](#) or [YouTube](#).

Good Friday

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



Spring Landscape Event - April 3

We're excited to beautify the church on Good Friday (April 3) to make our Easter service at Grace really special! We'd love to have all hands—and all ages—pitch in. It's been a wonderful event for families over the years, and it's such a great way to come together. Even if you can only spare an hour or two, your help would mean a lot! We'll be working from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and lunch will be provided. Feel free to bring along any tools that might help. Hope to see you there!

We will be doing a bunch of fun tasks such as:

1. Trimming hedges
2. Cleaning out gutters
3. Weeding
4. Edging
5. Leaf clean up
6. Mulch (18 yards of mulch!!!)

This is a very big job, and we can't do it without your help! Thank you so much for thinking about coming out and giving us a hand!



A Better Way

The most common question about stewardship is not whether a Christian should give to their church. Of course Christians should give to their church. Everyone knows this. Rather, the question asked most is, “How much should I give?” But this question really means, “Should Christians give a tenth of their income to their local congregation?”



Here are some common reasons against tithing. Some say tithing isn't necessary because it isn't expressly commanded in the New Testament. There is no “Thus saith the Lord,” or “should” concerning tithing. Others say that Christians give to their congregation in ways much broader than money. They give of their time and their talents, and these together with treasures (money) add up to more than a tithe. Still others say that they give of their treasures to other things besides their congregation, and they want to support those things alongside their church. And then there are those who think Christians shouldn't tithe because of some fear. They are afraid that if they tithe, their gift will be misused, or that after tithing, there won't be enough left over to get the things that they use, want or need.

Here are some reasons why Christians should tithe. Even though the New Testament doesn't specifically command Christians to tithe, the Old Testament people were commanded to. And on top of this, St. Paul often describes giving a regular and generous proportion of the first fruits of one's income — terms similar to a tithe (2 Cor. 8:7–23; 2 Cor. 9:2–7).

But here's another way to think about it. What was the point of the tithe in the Old Testament? Where did it go? This tithe was intended to support the ministry of the Levites. They were not given any land because they had no time to farm; their full-time job was the ministry. What does it say in the New Testament? “The Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14). This is the verse that Luther used in the Small Catechism's Table of Duties to explain what Christians owe to the support of the ministry.

It seems clear from both the Old and the New Testaments that the tithe is the goal of Christians in their giving. But what if we're not there yet? How should we handle this? What are we to do?

Let's answer this by asking a different question. What would you say to your adult children who only attended church quarterly or once a month? After all, there is no passage in the New Testament that requires Christians to go to church weekly. Hebrews 10:25 is the closest verse we have, and it states simply that Christians should not neglect gathering together. And even though there is no passage that commands Christians to gather weekly, that is the implicit expectation throughout the Old and New Testaments.

So, what would you say to that son or daughter? The conversation might go something like this. I'm glad you're still going to church. It is a wonderful blessing to hear God's promises of forgiveness, life and salvation, and to receive His gifts in Word and Sacrament. But you can do better, and it will only be a blessing to you. There is a better way, and I'd really like you to try to attain it.

We should approach the topic of tithing with a similar conversation. The tithe is not specifically commanded in the New Testament, but it sure seems like the implicit expectation of both the Old and New Testaments. So, we're ecstatic that you're giving, and that you're giving in all these various ways — time, talents and treasures. But there is a better way. And that will only be a blessing to you, just as the Word of God — Old and New Testament alike — promises. Can you try increasing your gifts over the coming weeks, months and years? Can you put your trust in the God who sent His Son to take away your sin and give you everlasting life? And if He did this for you, if He did not spare His only Son, how will He not give you all things? He will not disappoint.

This article was previously published in April 2023 by LCMS Stewardship

This Month at Grace

The Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship for APRIL is given by Brian & Lori Small in honor of twin grandson's & granddaughter's, Emmett & Allis, 9th birthdays.

The Special Benevolence offering for **APRIL** is **Mid-West Food Bank**. 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.

Easter Flower Pick-Up

If you sponsored an Easter Lily or Tulip, you may take it home after worship on Easter Sunday or pick the flowers up at the church Tuesday – Thursday 8am – 12noon the week of April 6th. Please only take a flower if you sponsored one. All flowers not picked up by Sunday April 12 will be delivered to our Homebound Members. If you wish to have your sponsored flowers delivered to homebound members instead of taking them home, please contact the office at 717-737-0439 or office@gracecamphill.org.





Pastor Richard Eckert Pastor for Spiritual Formation

Pastor Richard Eckert will be starting at Grace on Saturday, April 4, 2026.

As the Pastor for Spiritual Formation he will be a source of guidance and mutual growth for those participating. His 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.



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.

Spiritual Direction Opportunities Sign Ups

You can sign up in the library, by calling the office (717-737-0439), by using one of the QR codes below or online at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/faith-formation/spiritual-formation>



Individual Spiritual Direction

Space is limited for monthly Individual Spiritual Direction. Pastor Eckert will reach out to those that sign up in April.

INDIVIDUAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

For the Spiritual Direction Opportunities below we are looking to see how much interest there is for each of them. You can sign up for one or for all.

Group Spiritual Direction



GROUP SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Spiritual Retreats



SPIRITUAL RETREATS

Grief Group



GRIEF GROUP



*In my distress I called to the Lord;
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came before him, into his ears.*

Psalm 18:6

We hold in prayer especially this month...

George Ringer, Bob Rhodes, Beverly Earhart, Ed & Elaine Klemmer, Katie, Mark Weber, Todd Stuckey, Bob Heintzelman, Kim Yoffee, Jaclyn Atkins, Robert Schwitzer, Cheryl A., Amy Vogel, Alice M., and Dean Jury.

We hold in Ongoing prayer this month...

Paul Glenn, Nicole Geistwite Chase, 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, and Dorothy Shreffler.

We hold in prayer the recently departed...

Mary Louise Shetter

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.

Let's
Pray

From the Church Council



Council Actions

March 9, 2026 Meeting

- Tracey Douty was nominated to be the new treasurer after June 2026
- New Member Andy Hyatt was accepted
- Pastor Eckert will start on April 4
- New Kentland Policy and Pricing was approved
- Capital Campaign Progress: The new Sanctuary windows are being ordered, a new Church sign was approved
- The Library Refresh is still an ongoing project with many more improvements and furnishings coming soon.

Brigitte Storey
Secretary

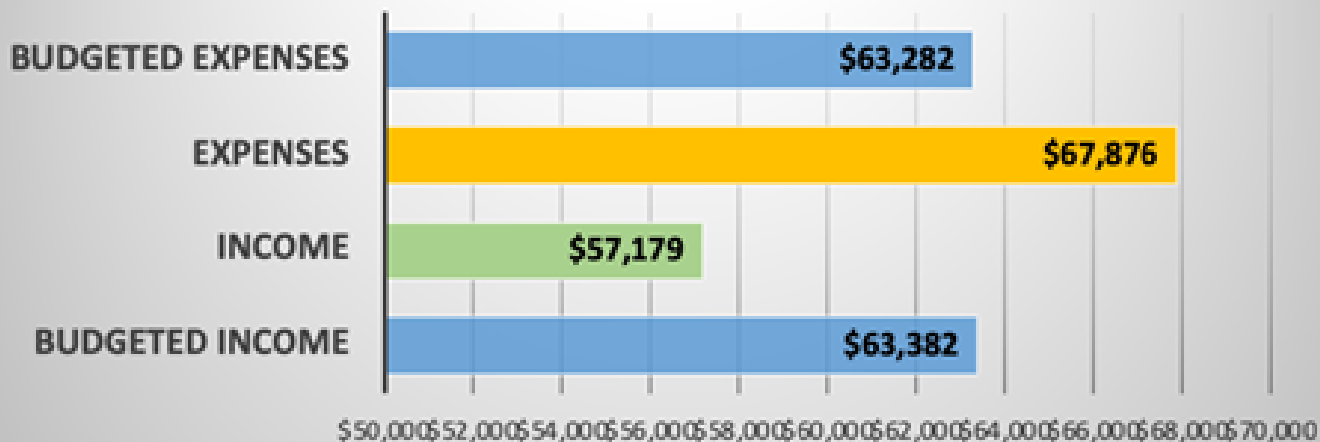


Members and Friends of Grace,

Thank you for your continued support of Grace's ministries. This month shows that we have higher expenses than budgeted, but that will even out as the weather warms up! This is similar to February of 2025.

Kelly Walker
Treasurer

Grace Lutheran Church thru Feb 2026





CITIZENS WITH THE SAINTS

April 20, 2026

Kelly Latimore Icons



A Day in the Capitol as Church Together

Join ecumenical partners from across the Commonwealth for a day of learning, inspiration, community-building and advocacy.

In a turbulent time for our nation and communities, we will explore what it means to live as “citizens with the saints and members of the household of God” as disciples in a democracy. Drawing on Ephesians 2:19's vision of identity rooted in baptismal belonging, we invite participants to consider how Christian discipleship shapes our civic life through grounding public witness in love of neighbor and costly solidarity, through a faithful, hope-filled presence in the public square.

Find out more and register
using the QR Code
or go to
www.lutheranadvocacypa.org



Teams of 3 or more from a congregatoin planning to come together can use the promo code **CONGREGATION26** for each person.
Students can register with a special rate!





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

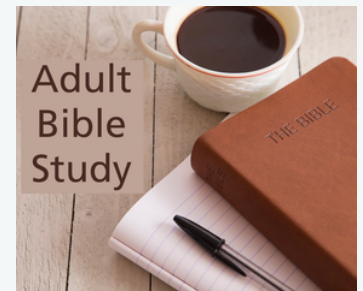
We would love to have you join us as we explore the journey of Paul in Greece. Paul is one of, if not the most, influential theologian for the Christian church as we know it. Come and see the first hand the places that he walked and ministered through. We will be departing October 17th and returning 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. *Please note there is no Bible Study on April 7, 2026.*



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

Camp Sunday - April 12 at 10:45am

As the winter months have come to a close, and the days have gotten longer and warmer, it is once again time to start making plans for summer camp this year. Join Ethan Lentz and friends on Sunday, April 12 at 10:45am on the lawn (weather permitting) for Camp Sunday to get a jump start on your planning. We will enjoy a morning of games, songs, and fun, to help us learn more about Lutheran Camping Corporation and summer camp opportunities. We will also enjoy a traditional camp snack. Please remember, this event is intergenerational, as camp is for ALL! We look forward to everyone joining us on Sunday the 12th!





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. **(Please note there is no GYG Meeting in April as the meeting scheduled for April 19 has been cancelled).** Stay up to date by following us on Facebook, Instagram and join our Band Chat to join in the community! Contact Ethan Lentz at ethan.lentz@gracecamphill.org with any questions.

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 next meeting will be on April 12 at 10:30am.

Junior Youth Group (JYG)



CONFIRMATION CLASS

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, April 19 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.



SAVE THE DATE: Senior Send Off Sunday

Join us in for outdoor worship and to congratulate our Seniors in High School and College on Sunday, May 24 in the Parking Lot.

Watch next month's newsletter, the Events page on the website or the weekly This Week at Grace for more information.

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.

Easter Potluck

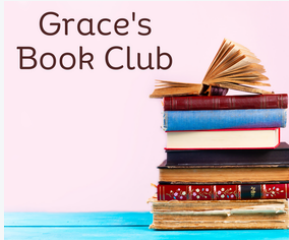
On Sunday, March 8 we held our annual Easter Potluck. A fun time, visits with the Easter Bunny, egg hunt and delicious meal was had by all who attended!



Midweek Lenten Dinner Church

On Wednesday, March 11 we held Midweek Lenten Dinner Church during the Community Meal. Confirmands from Grace served the meal and lead the study.





Join the Grace Book Club on Monday, April 6 at 7pm via Zoom to discuss their latest book. They have selected *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi to read for this discussion.

One spring morning, a stranger arrives in the small southern city of Golden. No one knows where he has come from or why. His name is Theo. And he asks a lot more questions than he answers.

Theo visits the local coffeehouse, where ninety-two pencil portraits hang on the walls, portraits of the people of Golden done by a local artist. He begins purchasing them, one at a time, and putting them back in the hands of their "rightful owners." With each exchange, a story is told, a friendship born, and a life altered. A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is a beautifully crafted novel about the power of creative generosity, the importance of wonder to a purposeful life, and the invisible threads of kindness that bind us to one another.

Allen Levi—attorney, judge, singer/songwriter, author—lives on and cares for family acreage near a small town in middle Georgia. *Theo of Golden* is his first novel.



Acolyte Training - April 26

We are looking for some volunteers to join the Acolyte team. This can be anyone in 6th - 12th grade or anyone 18 and older.

Acolytes are scheduled on a rotational basis and also help out by being the Crucifier and Torchbearers during select church holidays. You can agree to do all three or just some of these duties.

Pastor Chad is offering a training on Sunday, April 26th at 10:30am in the Sanctuary. If interested in finding out what all is required to be an acolyte plan on joining him that morning.

Once trained you would be added to the next schedule (July - September).



Community Aid Bin

Grace is hosting a Community Aid Bin for Family Promise HCR in the overflow parking lot. Family Promise will receive funding for each pound of clothing in the bin, and Grace will receive Community Aid gift cards to give to those seeking help. It's a win, win and Family Promise is extremely grateful for Grace's willingness to host the bin.

Susan Ryder





Let's Celebrate our April Birthdays

We have two monumental birthdays to share: Donna Leisenring turns 93 on April 4 and Ray Miller turns 97 on April 17. Please take a moment to wish them a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** with a telephone call or by mailing a card to:

Donna Leisenring
3223 Dunlap Lane
Apt. B
Mechanicsburg, PA 17011

Ray Miller
2700 Lisburn Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

4/1	James Bechtel Matt Hooper	4/13	Stephen Sultzaberger	4/23	Ann Barnett
4/2	Eric Flook Mitchell Hearn Keith Snavley	4/15	Jaxson Flook Sherry Kiser	4/25	Eleanor Erb Sean Hyser Bonnie Taylor Bryan Weber
4/4	Lois Boor Donna Leisenring Louis Lore Sharon Potteiger	4/16	Janet Gordon Amy Helmuth Beth Jury	4/26	Ron Thomas
4/5	Earl Artz Jane Massott Theresa Snyder	4/17	William Barlup, II Alexander McQuade Ray Miller	4/27	Cashlyn Bozart Ted Evans
4/6	Suzanne Morris	4/18	Gloria Boyer Gabe Reisch	4/28	John Ozimok
4/7	Cole Ryder	4/19	Nathan Chesky	4/29	Charles McInnes
4/9	Joyce Thomas	4/20	Connor O'Haren Matthew Ozimok	4/30	Connie Angus Charles Thomas, III
4/10	Liam Gunnett Kaden Scharein	4/22	Reed Bozart		

***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.*

Live your life and forget your age

Norman Vincent Peale

Community Meal Menu *

5:30pm in the Social Hall

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

April 8
TBD

April 22
TBD

The Community Meal at Grace



2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month

• Menu Subject to Change

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.

Earth Day Celebration

April 19, 2026 | 2:00pm - 6pm | \$15 | Camp Kirchenwald (1 Cut Off Road, Lebanon)

Enjoy an afternoon of environmental activities, games, and crafts at one of your favorite places within God's creation: CAMP! An evening meal is included in the \$15 free. All ages welcome. **RSVP by APRIL 10** to 717-677-8211.

Fine Arts at First - Muhlenberg College Choirs

April 19, 2026 | 4pm | FREE | First Evangelical Lutheran Church (100 East High Street, Carlisle)

This choral concert will feature Muhlenberg's Chamber Choir, College Choir, and Treble Choir. They perform music from a diverse range of genres, including classic works with full orchestra to a wide variety of world and folk music from diverse cultures and backgrounds. The Chamber Choir and College Choir are under the direction of Dr. Victoria Pitre, the Treble Choir is directed by Dr. Katherine Kaiser. To learn more, visit <https://www.muhenberg.edu>.

Earth Day at The Wittel Farm

April 25, 2026 | 10am - 2pm | The Wittel Farm (1753 Mill Road, Elizabethtown)

Serving the Earth is a Sacred Act of Love. Join The Wittel Farm staff for hands-on service learning: Native tree-planting; Community composting workshop: Turning food waste into soil; Basic Botony: Lear from our farm educator about the Importance of plants for daily life. Lunch provided. To register go to <https://www.lutherancamping.org/event/earth-day-wfgp/>

Wetlands Festival

April 25, 2026 | 10am - 4pm | Free | Wildwood Park (100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg)

Explore Wildwood Park's treasured wetlands for the 26th Annual Wetlands Festival! Join us for a day of free, fun, and educational activities with special musical guests and food trucks. Enjoy wildlife exhibits, walks, and a wide variety of local and regional environmental organizations. Interact with live animals and make crafts to take home! There is something for everyone! This festival is rain or shine!

Music at the Spring - Messiah University Percussion Ensemble

April 26, 2026 | 3pm | 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>



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

www.gracecamphill.org

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@grace_elca



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