



# FIRST SUNDAY OF Advent

## Good News from Grace

NOVEMBER 2021

### *Our Purpose*

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

**Nov. 28, 2021 (1st Sunday of Advent)**

**Psalm 25:4**—Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

*The First Sunday of Advent's theme is hope. Christians find our hope in God. We hunger for God and ask for guidance and strength to live fully as steward/disciples.*

Please contact  
Pastor Cover  
(717-525-4617)  
or  
Pastor Evan  
(717-497-3742)  
or  
Vicar Susan  
(717-497-1013)  
directly if you need  
pastoral assistance.

### At Home Communion

If you wish for someone to come to your home and provide communion please contact

Pastor Cover  
(717-525-4617)  
Pastor Evan  
(717-497-3742)  
or  
Vicar Susan  
(717-497-1013)

### Need A Ride?

Contact the church office for a list of members available to help you get where you need to go.

Office Hours:  
Monday - Thursday  
8am - 12 noon  
717-737-0439  
gelc@comcast.net

### ADVENT SERMON SERIES: THE SIGNS THAT GOD IS NEAR

How do you know God is near to you in your life?

This Advent, our preachers will discuss this question using the appointed lessons for the season. Is God near to us in ways we expect or do not expect? Is God near when everything is going right, or when everything is not? or both? Join us in worship November 28 - Christmas Eve.

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE SCHEDULE

Celebrate the season on Christmas Eve with us this year! Every service has something special to offer as we herald Christ's birth. All our services will offer Holy Communion and the singing of Silent Night with candle-lighting. The 4pm service will not offer a sermon – instead we have a different way of retelling the Christmas story. *All services will be available via Live Stream.*

**4pm Kids Pageant**  
**7pm Jazz/Swing Christmas**  
**9pm Choir & Bells Traditional Service\***

*\*This year our "Special Music" before the late service is our advertised start time. In years past, visitors have missed the note about prior special music. By advertising the time at 9pm, everyone gets to enjoy the extended prelude and worship service!*



### ZOOM ADVENT EVENT

Please join Vicar Susan on Zoom for an Advent Event **Sunday, December 12 at 11am.**

During this event you are invited to share a Christmas tradition that you or your family does every year. It could be an activity, a recipe or a Christmas decoration. We'll look at Luke's Christmas story as it compares to our preparations.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the Zoom information or go to the comment section on the Live Stream site.

*If you wish to participate by phone please contact the church office Monday - Thursday 8am to 12 noon at 717-737-0439 for the information. (Toll charges may apply)*

### ADVENT EVENT

This Sunday is our Annual Advent Event – an all ages craft-making time to begin the season of Advent. Join us following worship in the social hall as we make an Advent Calendar the whole family can enjoy!

### GOD HAS GIVEN US A MISSION BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON

Remember the Beatles? John, Paul, George, Ringo! I was into it. I had Beatle boots, love beads and granny glasses. My big brother gave me a model of Paul (the cute Beatle) for Christmas one year. It was one of those paint-it-yourself kits. I knew the lyrics to the Beatles' hits better than I knew Martin Luther's Small Catechism. The early hits were pop and upbeat: "I Want to Hold Your Hand", "A Hard Day's Night." Even later "Yellow Submarine" was still whimsical.

But then the Beatles got older, and the world changed. Vietnam, the Kennedy and King assassinations, the urban riots, the 1968 Chicago Democratic convention. Innocence – for those of us who had that luxury – was

*...Continued page 3*

## WREATH, POINSETTIA & ELCA GOOD GIFT

Sponsorship of Poinsettias and ELCA Good gifts will start on **November 15**.

There are (25) red poinsettias available at \$12.00 each and the (2) Altar poinsettias for Christmas Eve service are \$35.00 each.

Sponsorship of wreaths will start on **November 29** as we are still waiting on pricing for them.

We have again highlighted four choices for the ELCA Good Gifts:

- ♦ Chicks at \$ 10.00. Chicks will help a family spread their wings. When chicks grow up to become chickens, their eggs not only provide an ongoing supply of protein-rich meals -- they can also help start a small business and generate a steady source of income.
- ♦ Piglet at \$ 30.00. This little piggy couldn't be a bigger lifesaver. This gift is a source of natural fertilizer that helps crops grow tall and strong, and can also be sold at the market for extra income when it's needed.
- ♦ Goat at \$ 50.00. Goats can go where other animals can't, surviving in some of the world's most challenging terrain. Goat's milk provides nutrition for children and their families, and goats



are quick to reproduce -- which means a family can pass this live-saving gift onto others.

- ♦ God's Global Barnyard allows you to give any amount you wish. A gift to God's Global Barnyard will be used where it is needed most to support livestock, agriculture and other sustainable development projects, which help farmers and families with the resources they need to thrive.

All sponsorships can either be paid by mailing in or dropping off payment or by paying online by selecting ELCA Good Gifts from the online giving portal or mobile app. Please make sure to include with any sponsorship contribution which option you wish to support as well as the dedication you would like to have included in the Christmas Eve newsletter.

All sponsorships must be received by **Friday, December 17** to be included.

## CHILDREN'S CHOIR FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Children K-5th Grade are welcome to join us Sunday mornings to prepare a song or two for Christmas Eve! The Children Choir will sing at the 4pm service. Masks are required.

Practice will be Sundays at 8:45am in the chapel beginning November 28. Join us as we make music together!

## A SANTA MINGLE 2021

The Fellowship & Arts Committee presents: A Santa Mingle 2021.

Join us for an Open House-style event on **Saturday, December 11 from 9am - 11am** to visit Santa, make crafts and have a hot breakfast and enjoy fellowship at your leisure!

Please sign up [HERE](#) to schedule to eat anytime during either the 9:00am hour or 10:00am hour in the Social Hall or to only see Santa and make some crafts. Santa will be in the library and crafts will be in a room nearby. *Please be sure to indicate the number of children and adults attending.*

For those who only want to do the crafts and see Santa there will be cookies and cocoa available to go.

Parking is available in the lot and enter the church at the Welcome to Grace awning.

If you have any questions or are unable to sign up online contact Hope Pankake at [hopeswenson@gmail.com](mailto:hopeswenson@gmail.com) or 717-448-0739.



## MECHANICSBURG CHOIRS SINGING AT GRACE - DECEMBER 5

On **Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>**, the Mechanicsburg High School Wildcat Singers and the Mechanicsburg Middle School Select Ensemble will be performing a candlelight concert at **7:00pm** in the main sanctuary here at Grace.

This concert is open to the public and is free of charge. Come out to enjoy a quiet evening of beautiful music to put you in the holiday

spirit. This will be the first concert that these students have had in almost 2 years! They are eager to share their musical talents with the community! These ensembles are under the direction of Gordon Kaslusky and Emily Hartman. We look forward to seeing you there.



### GYG Schedule

#### November

28 Advent Event

#### December

5 5:00 - 7:30pm  
Coffee House  
Planning

11 Breakfast with Santa

12 GYG Night

19 4:00 - 7:30pm  
Cookie Bake &  
Caroling

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the full 2021 - 2022 GYG Schedule.

### JYG Schedule

#### November

28 Advent Event

#### December

5 10:30am - 12:00pm  
JYG

11 Breakfast with Santa

19 10:30 - 11:00am  
Large Group Sunday  
School

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the September 2021 - January 2022 complete schedule.

### Youth Food Cards

Support the Youth Ministry at Grace by purchasing gift cards from Karns, Weis or Giant in the dollar amounts of \$25, \$50 or \$100.

These cards are available at the office service window Monday - Thursday from 8am to 12noon. Contact Chris at 717-737-0439.

Checks should be made payable to GELC with Youth Food Card on the memo line.

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

Gladys Cline, Tommy Dunn, Glenda Rumberger, Don Lenker, Donna Ritter, Patti Reed, John Aldridge, Todd Galle, James Neidinger, Diane Brokenshire, Dr. Michael Schreck, Sudy Stoll, Keith Downs, Garry Murray, James Silcox, Vernon Frazier, and Dean Jury.

## ***We hold in ongoing prayer...***

Margaret Knupp, Kathryn Tuckey, Pastor Molly Haggerty, Arianna Moyer, Kyle Blose, Gerald & Darlene M, Frank Blizzard, Gerry & Sara Jane Crawford, Mary Louise Shetter, Charlie Buchanan, Dave Buchanan, Joyce Allan, Sis Hoffman, Mary Lee Ryder, Jack Alfano, David Harman III, Howard Lauver, Priscilla Walter, Paulette Lauver, Lesly Richards, Elijah Conroy, Susan Blumberg, Lisa Leen, Eileen McCann, Mary Heverling, Mike Lutz, Destiny Glenn, and Reinhard C.

## ***We also hold our shut-ins in prayer:***

Yvonne Gettys, Delores Miller, Jim Stoll, Louis Lore, John Hench, Shirley Hughes, John Shuey, Betty Bennett, and Dick Cromer.

## ***In our military:***

Corey Latsha, Alex Robison, Larry G. Lackey and Gabriel Bailey.

***If you have family members or friends on the prayer list please notify the church office (717-737-0439 or [gelc@comcast.net](mailto:gelc@comcast.net)) each month with updates. Your input helps us maintain the prayer list since we are not aware of the changes in the health status of those on the list.***

## ***We hold in prayer especially those in the medical fields***

Katie Perella-Carvalhoes, Lauren S., Megan S., Dixie S., Ben S., Katelynn S., Tess J., Kay L., Art L., Addison McInnes, Corky Graf, Ken Graf, Kristin Quesenberry, Maureen Minard, Brad Moore, MD, William Schell, MD, Kirsten Hyatt, MS, Star Peiffer, Patty Rohde, Melanie Augustine, Jenny Castillo, Jill Green, Mary Brown, Kara, Sheri Hartzell, Tracy Hartzell, Josh Barr, Chrystal, Sante, Cindy Frost, Eileen Smith, Sharon Eppley, Kayleigh Titzel, Brendan Bergey, Judith Zeiders, Amy Evans, Laurie Colman, Connie Malmborg, Ashley Morris, Amy Schwab, Beth Gargiulo, Tami Heath, Julie Draper, Deb Fickes, Amanda McNally, Justin Young, Jessica Chestnut, Stephanie Sampson, Samantha & Peter Kang, David Bergquist, MD, Karen Redclift Albidrez, Elizabeth Brickell, and Maura White.

### ***Continued from page 1***

gone. Skepticism, even cynicism, was the lens through which the world was seen. A lot was broken, including trust in institutions and the church.

In 1971, John Lennon's hit "Imagine" came out. It was evocative and, I'm sure, was meant to point us to the possibility of a better future. I found it disturbing. A world without religion. No heaven. No hell. No countries. No possessions. As if excising these things would cure humanity and the world would be as one.

There was and is enough brokenness in the world to go 'round. But the brokenness is not outside of us – in institutions, politics, religion – it is within us. The only way to construct utopia is to get rid of people. Imagine.

Except God has a different way. It is the way of Jesus. It is the way of love. It is the way of life. You see, God so loves the world and all of creation and all of us. God is right down with us in all of our messiness. In Jesus, God has reconciled the world to God's self, redeeming it and us in spite of our rebellion. We can stake our lives on the

relentless, faithful, powerful, tender love of God.

During the pandemic we dreamed great things and imagined an ELCA that could envision a world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in

***God has a different way. It is the way of love. It is the way of life.***

Christ makes for all people and creation. We prayed and still pray that the Spirit will activate each of us so that more people know the way of Jesus and discover community, justice and love. And we set a goal – engage a million new, young and diverse people by the end of this decade. Why? Because the world deserves to hear the gospel. The world needs to look beyond itself. There is a heaven.

Clearly this is not the work of the churchwide organization alone, nor of any one congregation. It is a mission for all of us. There are so many people who do not know that they need to know Jesus. There are so many people who think that God's grace is too good to be true. There are so many people searching

for meaning. All are beloved by God. God longs to draw all people to Godself, to clean us up and wash our faces so that God's image shines clearly from all of us, so that we can see God's image shining from each other.

New, young and diverse? What about those of us who are already here, have always been here, who have been doing the work and paying the bills? We are the 99 sheep that didn't go stray. We are the older brother who stayed home and worked hard. Of course we are!

We have lived in the love of Jesus and walked in Jesus' way. We know the freedom of the Christian. We don't live in an unforgiving world, but in a redeemed world with a future. Why wouldn't we want to share that with as many people as we can?

Even a million new, young and diverse people – why stop there? The flock was not whole until the one lost was found. The older brother did not realize that all his father had was already his as a gift. This is true for us. God has given this mission to invite more people into the way of Jesus. Imagine.



I am so thankful for the continued effort of the "Panera pickup teams": Tracey and Craig Douty, Wendy and Ted Evans, Marta and Randy Hamme, Bob Hillegas, Margie and Dave Lebo, John Ozimok, Sue and Jeff Painter, Hope and Adam Pankake, The Ryder Family and BJ and Russ Weber.

Throughout the pandemic you went to Panera every Tuesday night to make sure the donations were available for the community meal. I'm also grateful for Panera for their donations. If you have the opportunity, please support Panera.





## HISTORY CORNER

BY MELINDA CASTILLO BECHTEL

### ADVENT EVENT: MAKING MEMORIES AT GRACE

My family joined Grace in the late 70s and one of my most cherished memories was the annual Advent Event held traditionally during the afternoon on the first Sunday of Advent season. As a child and then as a teenager, I remember long tables set out with crafts, brimming with good cheer and communal anticipation for Advent and Christmas. Making crafts to commemorate the turn of the church season that you could bring home and enjoy in the years to come was very special.

In those years, Advent Event also usually included a meal that was enjoyed by all after the craft making was done. It was also a great outreach activity because you could and would invite family and friends of all ages to enjoy the start of the season.

After college, life took me to Washington, DC and then 20 years spent in Arizona. My husband David and I joined Grace Lutheran Church in a

downtown Phoenix neighborhood. I was delighted to re-discover Advent Event at our new church. When we moved back to PA in 2012, I joined the Children, Youth and Family Ministry committee, and one of the first items on the agenda that fall was to bring back an Advent Event to the regular church celebration rotation. To bring the joy of this event to a new generation and hopefully remind long time members of Grace of fun and fellowship has been the guiding light since that time.

For the last few years, I have helped to head the event with lots of help from other committee members, Pastor Cover and my family. I especially remember the first Advent Event I headed up and the happiness of seeing 70+ church members, friends and family spend a few hours creating Advent wreaths and ornaments. Again, long tables set with crafts, overflowing with good cheer

and making those connections between church members and visitors alike.

Last year, not even a global pandemic could stop Advent Event - a two day drive by event helped me clean out the craft closet and enjoy seeing many friends after a long quarantine. I have the greatest appreciation for those members that put together an Advent Event each year when I was growing up and I hope that I have passed the joy of this event to a new generation!

Enjoy Advent!

## CONGREGATION COUNCIL REPORT NOVEMBER 2021

The Council approved Patty Rohde to fill in for Karen Hubbard's unexpired term through January 2022, at which time another candidate will be voted upon at the January congregational meeting.

The Council approved Marti Bert as chair of the Personnel Committee.

An expense to mitigate damages and make repairs on the lower level of the main building was approved to be paid out of the Goudy Fund.

The annual congregational meeting was set for Sunday, January 30, 2022.

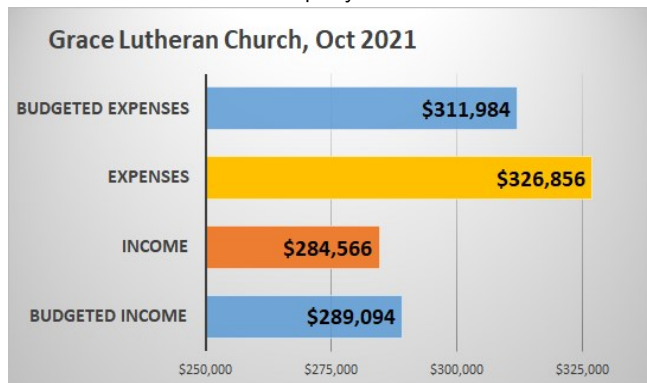
A strategic planning survey has been developed and distributed or made available for members and those involved with Grace to complete and return to evaluate concerns and desires and inform future actions.

Karen Galle  
Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT: SUSAN DICKENSON

As the congregation council embarks on the annual budgeting process, we will be looking at our planned expenses and expected income next year. It appears we may break even around the end of 2021 with the help

of our \$ 41,250 PPP loan, which has already been forgiven. It will be a challenge to look ahead to 2022, so please pray for the council as we discuss our anticipated needs for next year.



## Music This Week

"A Voice Cries Out"

Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

"The King Shall Come  
When Morning Dawns"

Carolyn Houck

## Did You Know....

- On November 25, 1920 the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade, the oldest in the U.S., was first held.
- On November 27, 1910 Pennsylvania Station opened. It was so called because the Pennsylvania Railroad trains began using it.
- On November 30, 1858 the Mason jar was invented and patented (#22,186) by Philadelphia tinsmith John Landis Mason.

## DISH of the month



### Pear & Hazelnut Salad

Whisk 1 tbs. white balsamic vinegar with 2 tbs. low-fat sour cream, 2 tbs. mayo, 1 tbs. dill, 1 tbs. chives, and 1/4 tsp. kosher salt. Spoon over 8 cups lettuce, 1 sliced pear and 1/4 cup chopped hazelnuts.

Serves 4

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sabbath Wine & Cheese

**No Wine & Cheese on Saturday, November 27 nor December 25.**

Wine & Cheese will resume in January on the **4th Saturday of the month at 5:15pm** as long as someone sponsors it.

Sponsorship sign-ups are by the elevator. If no one has signed up for sponsorship one week prior the Wine & Cheese will be cancelled.

### Grief Support Group

Meets the **second Thursday of the month at 11:00am** and will try to meet in person as much as possible. Reading material is provided. For more information contact Pastor Cover 717-525-4617 [pastorcover.gelc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcover.gelc@gmail.com)

### Tuesday Bible Study: 1:00pm & 7:00pm

Join us Tuesdays in-person at 1pm (*Participants are required to be masked, especially those not vaccinated.*) or via Zoom at 7pm. Contact Pastor Evan at [pastorevan47@gmail.com](mailto:pastorevan47@gmail.com) or 717-497-3742 for login information.

November 30  
No Bible Study

In December Tuesday Bible Study will meet on December 7 & 14 to study the Book of Esther.

### Book Club

**No Book Club in December.** The next book club meeting will be on **Tuesday, January 18 at 7pm via Zoom**. The book club will be reading "The Henna Artist" by Alka Joshi.

Contact Pastor Cover at [pastorcover.gelc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorcover.gelc@gmail.com) for login information.

### Men of Grace

The Men of Grace will **not meet in December**. They will resume meeting on the **third Thursday of the month at 6:00pm via zoom** in January 2022.

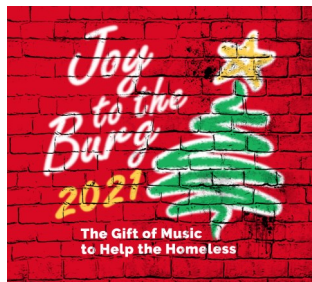
For more information or login instructions please contact Matt Hearn 717-350-1048 or Rick Keen 717-657-5563.

### Revelations Bible Study

Please join Vicar Susan for a 6 week study of the book of Revelations.

**It will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 from January 4, 2022 through February 8, 2022 via Zoom.**

The Zoom credentials are **HERE** or contact the office if wishing to participate via phone (Toll charges may apply)).



Local musicians have united again in 2021 to create the third annual Joy to the Burg Christmas album to benefit people experiencing homelessness. Albums are on sale now and proceeds will support the homelessness programs of Christian Churches United (CCU) in Harrisburg.

Thanks to generous sponsors ALL the costs associated with producing the CD have been covered. Therefore, 100% of all album sales goes directly to the homelessness outreach efforts of expanding winter walk-in shelters for both men & women in Harrisburg as well as helping those on the street get into long-term housing.

Albums are available at Karns or at [www.joyToTheBurg.com](http://www.joyToTheBurg.com)

## This Week at Grace...

The Altar Flowers for **Sunday, November 28** are given to the Glory of God.

The Bulletin & Mailing Sponsorship for **Sunday, November 28** is given by Bill & Sandy Robison in honor of Leland Masterson's 3rd birthday.

The Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship for **November** is given by Garri Ann & Matt Hearn in honor of Jacob's birthday.

The Special Benevolence Offering for **November is World Hunger**. To contribute please list the amount on your offering envelope next to Special Offering Ministry and list **World Hunger** under comments.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

The 2022 Sponsorship dates are now available. You can sign up on the bulletin board near the elevator or **CLICK HERE** to see available dates. Contact Diane at 717-737-0439 x 15 or [deppengelc@gmail.com](mailto:deppengelc@gmail.com) to reserve a date before sending in payment if unable to sign-up at the church.

### Online Directory Password

*Due to a recent scam email that was sent out to members the online directory password has been changed. If you would like the new password, contact the church office.*

**Good News from Grace** articles are due by 12 noon on Tuesdays. Email to [deppengelc@gmail.com](mailto:deppengelc@gmail.com)

### Join us for Worship!

Saturdays at 6:00PM  
Sundays at 9:30AM  
or  
[via Live Stream](#)

### Sunday School

Sundays September to May



## Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

1610 Carlisle Road  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
Office: 717-737-0439  
[gelc@comcast.net](mailto:gelc@comcast.net)

Visit us on Facebook at Grace Lutheran Church,  
Twitter @grace\_elca  
or on the web at:  
[www.gracecamphill.org](http://www.gracecamphill.org)