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# THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2024

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Dear friends in Christ,

Have you ever looked back on a season of your life and later on seen that something good had come out of the experience, even though it was a really rough time? I've heard that kind of experience called a "hidden gift."

This month during worship, we are celebrating "The Hidden Gifts of Advent." In these four short weeks, we'll take a closer look at what it means to see beyond what happens during this dark, wintry part of the year, and how it relates to our lives of faith. There are even handouts on which you can write down each hidden gift; they're pretty fun.

But I wonder if there are some Hidden Gifts in your own season of Advent that have popped up over the years. Maybe a lonely Christmas season gave way to a different sense of caring for others. Or maybe a brief illness opened your eyes to how many people spend months at a time in a hospital because of a chronic illness.

Maybe a hard time gave way to a new kind of joy. Despite the grief of the end of a relationship, maybe you saw your life with a new perspective and fresh ideas of what a new season might look like. Maybe you found a new version of yourself that was stronger than you had previously realized, and you were ready to see what that newer, stronger self could really accomplish.

No matter how they have occurred, you've probably had some hidden gifts in your life. It seems to me like God specializes in hidden gifts. Because God seems to always do God's best work when we think that no good can be found in a situation. I wonder if during this Advent season, you might celebrate the ways that God's hidden gifts have shaped your life and your faith. Each week, we can look at the different ways that hidden gifts show up in our preparation for Christmas. And as we prepare our homes for the coming holidays, we can also take time to prepare our hearts for the love that comes to us through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

In your Advent preparations, don't forget that hidden away in a broken down barn, in a humble little town in the middle of nowhere, there was a baby born to teach us how to love.

Peace in your search for hidden gifts,  
Pastor Sarah

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**10 S. SEVENTH STREET**  
**SHAMOKIN, PA 17872**  
**THE REV. SARAH HERSHBERGER**  
**OFFICE: (570)648-7534**  
**EMAIL: gracelutheranch@yahoo.com**  
**WEBSITE: gracelutheranshamokin.org**  
**THE SERVICE: 10:00 A.M.**

**STAFF**

Pastor	Rev. Sarah Hershberger
Secretary	Sandee Cupp
Organist	Walter Boyer
Choir Director	Charlene Pell
Inside Sexton	Robin Orme
Sexton	Willie Marsh

**CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	
Bruce Romanic	Jeffrey Clutcher	Bill Hoffa
	Craig Rhoades	Jim Shingara

**CONGREGATION OFFICERS**

President	Bruce Romanic
Vice President	Jeffrey Clutcher
Secretary	Sandee Cupp
Financial Secretary	Debra Keefer
Treasurer	Nancy Joraskie

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

Altar Guild	
Christian Education	Pamala Rhoades
Fellowship Team	James Shingara
Finance	Nancy Joraskie
	Gladys Shingara
	Ron Weller
Mutual Ministry	Bruce Romanic
Property	Bill Hoffa
	Bill Joraskie
	Jeffrey Clutcher
	Craig Rhoades
Social Ministry	Bruce Romanic
Worship & Music	Charlene Pell
	Sandee Cupp
Youth	Rebecca Romanic



12/02 Jeanne Hoffa  
 12/05 Rod Faust  
 12/17 Tyler Keiser  
 12/22 Mark Cupp  
 12/28 Shelley Faust  
 12/29 Claire Hershberger  
 12/31 Martha Jane Scholl



12/29 Mr. & Mrs. David Kopitsky

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**Building Fund Report**  
**OCTOBER 2024**

<b>Balance October 1, 2024</b>	<b>\$5027.32</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Green Envelopes	
Oct. 6	\$180.00
Oct.13	\$20.00
Oct.20	\$20.00
Oct. 27	\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$220.00</b>
<b>New Balance</b>	<b>\$5247.32</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Hillcrest Roofing	700.00
Bloom Heating	287.50
Bank deposit slips	48.48
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$1035.98</b>
<b>Balance October 31, 2024</b>	<b>\$4211.34</b>

Respectfully submitted  
 Charlene Pell, Treasurer

**SERVERS FOR DECEMBER**

DATE	<u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u>
12/1	R. Kovach & G. & J. Shingara
12/8	Craig & Pam Rhoades
12/15	Bruce Romanic
12/22	Bruce Romanic
12/24	David Kopitsky
12/29	Jeff Clutcher

ALTAR CARE

12/1	Shelley Faust & Jeanne Hoffa
12/8	Pam & Craig Rhoades
12/15	Debra Keefer & Karena Weikel
12/22	Marsha Karnes
12/24	Treva Madison & Joanne Templin
12/29	Shelley Faust & Jeanne Hoffa

HEAD USHER

John Strausser



In an effort to decorate the Sanctuary of Grace Church, poinsettias are being offered in memory/honor of a loved one. We will do the ordering for you. **The cost is \$15.** Sign-up on the sheet in the rear of the church. Money may be put in a marked envelope and dropped in the offering box or given to Sandee Cupp. **The deadline to order is Sunday December 15.** **Christmas Memorials** must also be given to Sandee by **Sunday December 15** if they are to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin.



**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

**TUESDAY DECEMBER 24**

**4:00 P.M.**



Jeff and Kathleen Clutcher wish to thank everyone who helped them celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary - the congregation for attending their renewal of vows and for all the well wishes they received.










**Council Notes**



Council met on Zoom November 21. The 2025 budget was approved. The slate of members running for council was approved. Bloom Heating will be called to adjust the heating. The Christmas Service will be at 4 pm. Pastor will visit shut-ins before Christmas. The Salvation Army requested the use of the Primary room and the garage to prepare for the Christmas distribution. The next council meeting will be on Zoom January 30.



# DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 10 am	2 Table Tennis 6 pm	3 Deans Meeting 11 am	4	5 	6 AA Meeting 7 pm	7 
8 Worship 10 am Healing Service After Worship	9 Table Tennis 6 pm	10	11 	12	13 AA Meeting 7 pm	14
15 Worship 10 am	16 Table Tennis 6 pm	17 	18	19 	20 AA Meeting 7 pm	21 
22 Worship 10 am	23 Table Tennis 6 pm	24 4 pm 	25 	26	27 AA Meeting 7 pm	28
29 Worship 10 am	30 Table Tennis 6 pm	31				

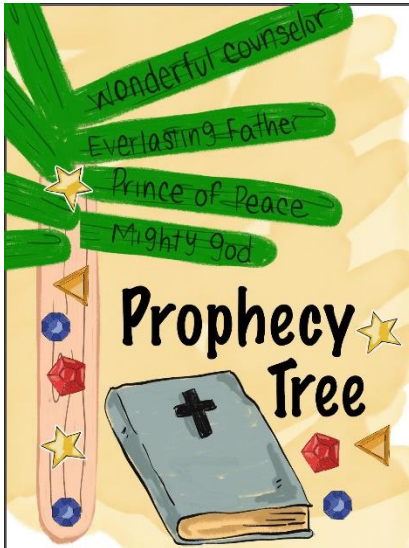
**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Treasurer's Report**  
**OCTOBER 2024**

**GENERAL FUND**

Beginning Balance October 1, 2024	\$ 33,769.32
Receipts	\$ 5,974.61
Expenditures	\$ 10,132.78-
Ending Balance October 31, 2024	\$ 29,611.15

## First National Bank

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
Void Ck #16552	10/1/2024	Void - C.S.P. Office Equipment Co. (3/8/24)	\$ 312.42-
16647	10/1/2024	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 458.33
16648	10/1/2024	Bloom Heating	\$ 1,662.00
Debit	10/2/2024	UGI	\$ 7.77
Debit	10/3/2024	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 249.56
Debit	10/9/2024	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 202.79
Debit	10/9/2024	Aqua PA	\$ 79.64
Debit	10/9/2024	Aqua PA	\$ 26.75
Debit	10/13/2024	PenTeleData	\$ 124.41
16649	10/16/2024	Penn National Insurance	\$ 180.00
16650	10/16/2024	1517 Media	\$ 60.30
16651	10/16/2024	Cole's Hardware	\$ 46.48
16652	10/16/2024	SCTJSA (Sewer Authority)	\$ 100.00
16653	10/16/2024	Tulpehocken Mt. Spring Water Inc	\$ 7.00
16654	10/16/2024	Susquehanna Fire Equipment Co.	\$ 446.95
16655	10/25/2024	Boyer, Walter	\$ 260.50
16656	10/25/2024	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16657	10/25/2024	Marsh, Willie	\$ 222.59
16658	10/25/2024	Orme, Robin	\$ 437.06
16659	10/25/2024	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 2,055.84
16660	10/25/2024	Penn National Insurance	\$ 166.00
Debit	10/29/2024	Internal Revenue Service	\$ 1,738.92
Debit	10/30/2024	Pennsylvania Dept. of Revenue	\$ 198.42
Debit	10/30/2024	Portico	\$ 418.38
Debit	10/31/2024	Keystone Collections Group	\$ 124.53
Debit	10/31/2024	UGI	\$ 129.00
Debit	10/31/2024	Portico	\$ 418.38
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,132.78</b>



# Prophecy Tree

Make this Christmas craft to display special names for Jesus.

**What you need:**

- Large wooden craft stick
- Small green wooden craft sticks
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Bible
- Permanent marker
- Craft glue
- Optional: star stickers or craft jewels

**What you do:**

1. Place the large stick on a table vertically, like a tree trunk.
2. Cut the green sticks into pieces that measure 4", 3½", 3" and 2½".
3. On each green stick, write a name for Jesus from Isaiah 9:6 — Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Write small or ask an adult for help.)
4. Use a dot of glue to attach each green stick to the large stick, like tree branches.
5. Decorate your Christmas tree with stickers or jewels.



# PUZZLE



## CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth. Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	!	@	#	\$
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
%	^	&	*	(	)	-	?	>	<	:	;	{

For to us a 3 8 9 # 4 is 2 ^ ( % ) ^ %

is 7 9 > 5 %, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful 3 ^ ? % ) 5 # ^ (,

\$ 9 7 8 - ; God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the

greatness of his government and & 5 1 3 5 there will be no 5 % 4.

He will reign on David's - 8 ( ^ % 5 and over his @ 9 % 7 4 ^ \$,

establishing and upholding it with ! ? ) - 9 3 5

from that time on and 6 ^ ( 5 > 5 (. Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV

Answers: child, born, given, son, mighty, peace, end, throne, kingdom, justice, forever

