
THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2025

Dear friends in Christ,

There is a music teacher in the Mifflinburg school district who talks about failure like it's a good thing. Can you imagine? Failing is my least favorite thing!

One of my daughter's friends was feeling terrible after an audition. She wanted to get into a district band as a freshman, but didn't get in. She was crestfallen. She felt like she had failed. The music teacher overheard the conversations going on about this audition and couldn't help but contribute.

She told a story about an audition that she had in high school. It was for a one-time-special -occasion-singing-group. She practiced and practiced. She skipped all of her lunches to practice. She had never practiced so much in her life. She was ready for that audition. But then....She didn't get into the singing group. She was crestfallen. She felt like she had failed. But then....

Her schedule on that one-time-special-occasion-performance day was suddenly free. And it was also Penn State Visit Day. So she visited Penn State to see what being a student there might be like. And that's where she went to college. She studied music, and in her music classes, she met someone wonderful. He's now her fiance, as well as her favorite accompanist. She has a job that she loves, using her God-given talent. She tells the students that her life has turned out this one certain way because....she had an audition one time that was really terrible. What felt like a failure turned out to be a hidden gift.

I wonder if something like that has ever happened to you. Maybe there was a broken road that led you down a path that you never expected. You were crestfallen. You felt like you had failed. But then...you found yourself in a better place than you would have been, had you followed the original course.

In January, we often talk about New Year's resolutions and how we'd like to improve ourselves. Sometimes it makes us look at the ways that we have failed. Even more difficult, we sometimes think about ways that we have failed more than once. But our loving God doesn't see failures. God looks at us and says "you are my beloved. I love you for everything that you are today. I love you without condition or exception. No matter what has happened in your past, it doesn't change how much I love you." I wonder if we could start seeing ourselves and each other with those same loving thoughts in the new year. I wonder if we could see ourselves and each other as God's new creation, learning from every experience, trying to do better with each new day.

My prayer for you in the coming year is to see God's love in every person. Especially yourself. Once you see it in yourself, you won't be able to help but see it in others. I promise.

Peace,
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>2026</u>	
Bruce Romanic	Jeffrey Clutcher	Bill Hoffa
<u>2027</u>	Craig Rhoades	
Jill Heitzman		

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



2/06 Karen Reeder
 2/14 Olivia Kopitsky
 2/15 Patricia Hixson
 2/21 Rev. Alfred Bashore
 2/21 Gloria Klemas
 2/29 Charmaine Smith



2/13 Mr. and Mrs. Leon Madara
 2/17 Mr. and Mrs. James Shingara, Sr.
 2/25 Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Stone

Grace Lutheran Church
Building Fund Report
DECEMBER 2024

Balance November 30, 2024	\$4436.34
Income	
Green Envelopes	
Dec. 1	\$125.00
Dec. 8	\$235.00
Dec. 15	\$ 60.00
Dec. 24	\$30.00
Total Income	\$450.00
New Balance	\$4886.34
Expenses	
Heitzman's	\$140.00
Total Expense	\$140.00
Balance December 31, 2024	\$4746.34

Respectfully submitted
 Charlene Pell, Treasurer

SERVERS FOR FEBRUARY

DATE	<u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u>
2/2	Bruce Romanic
2/9	Jeff Clutcher
2/16	Jon Hoover
2/23	Pam & Craig Rhoades

ALTAR CARE

2/2	Shelley Faust & Jeanne Hoffa
2/9	Pam & Craig Rhoades
2/16	Debra Keefer & Karena Weikel
2/23	Marsha Karnes

HEAD USHER

John Strausser



With Profound Thanks

Dear Grace Lutheran Church,
Thank you so very much for the Christmas gift you gave to my family and me. I am humbled by your generosity and **so** very grateful to you.

Thank you so much for being so loving and thoughtful. My heart is full.

--Pastor Sarah

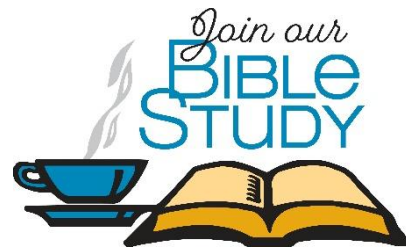


ASH WEDNESDAY ASHES

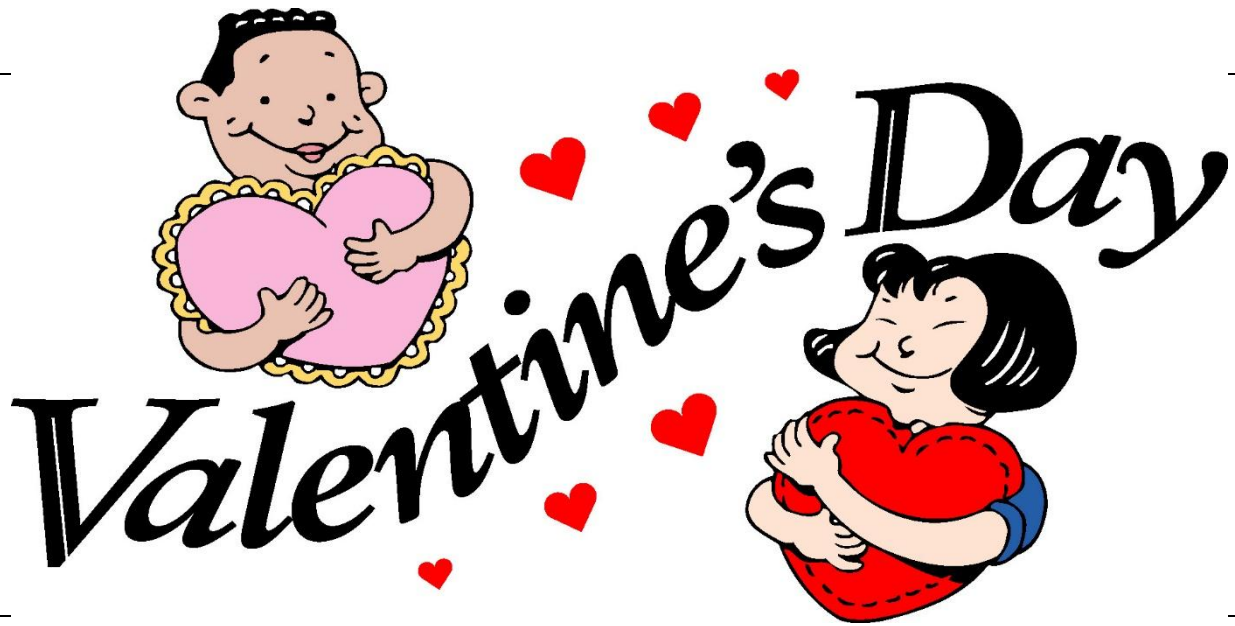
Pastor Sarah will distribute "Drive By" Ashes on Wednesday, March 5 (Ash Wednesday) from Noon to 1:00 PM at the middle of Market and Chestnut Streets.



A big thank you to everyone who stayed after worship to help decorate and undecorate Grace Church for the Christmas season. A special thank you to Jill Heitzman and Andrea Scholl for decorating the front of the church. We received many compliments from the public.



Pastor Sarah will lead a daytime Bible Study beginning Wednesday February 19 at 10:30 am. The group will meet every Wednesday in the Lamar Grow classroom. Galatians will be the book of the Bible that will be studied. Books are available, but you need to let us know if you are interested in attending so they can be ordered. The previous daytime Bible Study was a great learning experience and a lot of fun. Let Pastor Sarah or Sandee know if you are interested, or sign up on the sheet on the table in the rear of the church.



FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship 10 am	3 Table Tennis 6 pm	4 Tulpehocken Pastors Conference 10 am	5	6 Ministerium 10 am	7 AA Meeting 7 pm	8
9 Worship 10am Healing Service After Worship	10 Table Tennis 6 pm	11	12 	13	14 AA Meeting 7pm <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15
16 Worship 10am	17 Table Tennis 6 pm PRESIDENTS DAY	18 Deans Meeting 11 am	19	20 	21 AA Meeting 7 pm	22
23 Worship 10 am	24 Table Tennis 6 pm	25 	26	27	28 AA Meeting 7 pm	

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
DECEMBER 2024

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance December 1, 2024	\$ 30,723.52
Receipts	\$ 10,267.55
Expenditures	\$ 9,622.95-
Ending Balance December 31, 2024	\$ 31,368.12

First National Bank

12/1/2024 through 12/31/2024

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
16679	12/1/2024	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 458.33
16680	12/1/2024	Bloom Heating	\$ 1,662.00
Debit	12/2/2024	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 157.06
Debit	12/2/2024	UGI	\$ 129.00
16681	12/8/2024	Brotherhood Mutual Insurance	\$ 2,281.00
Debit	12/9/2024	Aqua PA	\$ 28.52
Debit	12/9/2024	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 189.68
Debit	12/9/2024	Aqua PA	\$ 89.67
Debit	12/13/2024	PenTeleData	\$ 121.41
16682	12/22/2024	1517 Media	\$ 21.00
16683	12/23/2024	1517 Media	\$ 33.75
16684	12/23/2024	Tulpehocken Mt. Spring Water Inc	\$ 7.00
16685	12/23/2024	SCTJSA - (Sewer Authority)	\$ 100.00
16686	12/23/2024	Boyer, Walter	\$ 437.06
16687	12/23/2024	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16688	12/23/2024	Marsh, Willie	\$ 222.59
16689	12/23/2024	Orme, Robin	\$ 387.06
16690	12/23/2024	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 2,055.84
16607	12/23/2024	Casey Gonzalez (6/27/2024) * VOID*	\$ 200.00-
16635	12/23/2024	Casey Gonzalez (8/25/2024) * VOID*	\$ 100.00-
16663	12/23/2024	Casey Gonzalez (11/05/2024) *VOID*	\$ 200.00-
16691	12/23/2024	Casey Gonzalez	\$ 700.00
Debit	12/23/2024	Portico	\$ 418.38
Debit	12/26/2024	PenTeleData	\$ 121.41
			\$ 9,622.95

 a lovely
aroma


Make this sweet-smelling gift for a friend or valentine.


What you need:

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils (rose, lavender, etc.)

What you do:

1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.

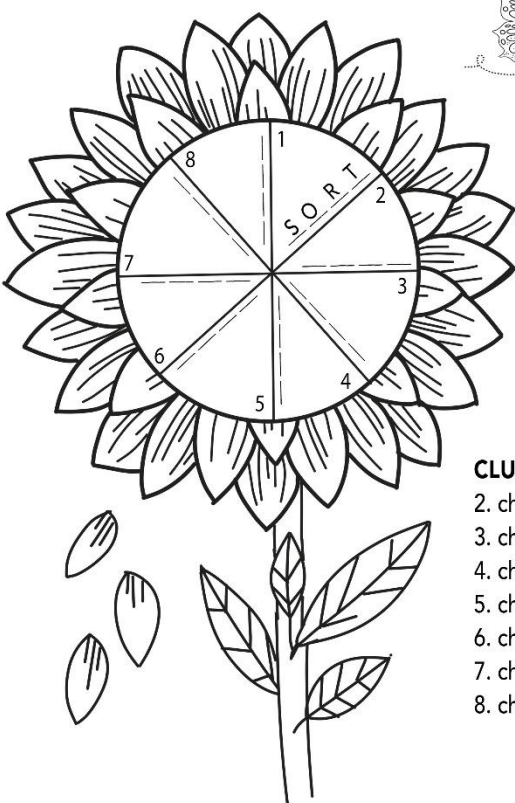


 **PUZZLE**

THE LOVE CYCLE

In 1 John 4, God instructs us to love other people. Where does our love come from?

Directions: Starting at #1 and going clockwise, solve each clue to create a new four-letter word. Then write the eighth word in both blanks below to complete 1 John 4:19, NIV.

 We _____ because [God] first _____ d us.

1 John 4:19, NIV

CLUES

2. change 1 letter: a tent to play in
3. change 2 letters: a crease in paper
4. change 1 letter: a precious metal
5. change 2 letters: a beautiful dress
6. change 1 letter: opposite of up
7. change 2 letters: a type of bird
8. change 1 letter: God is this (see 1 John 4:16).

Answers: fort, fold, gold, gown, down, dove, love; We love because [God] first loved us. 1 John 4:19, NIV

