
THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2025

Dear friends in Christ,

Picture it: the Degenstein Center at Susquehanna University, third row of the auditorium, a reserved sign on two empty seats in the center of the row. Not wanting to crowd anyone's elbow room, I sat one seat away from the nearest reserved seat. I wanted a good spot to see the speaker, but I didn't want to chit-chat with a stranger, so this seat was perfect.

The speaker was Father Gregory Boyle. Some people will spend their bottom dollar going to see Billy Joel or Garth Brooks in concert. I will gladly pass up those famous artists to go and see Greg Boyle speak anywhere that is within driving distance.

Father Greg is a Jesuit priest, serving some of the poorest of the poor in the city of Los Angeles, California. He is the founder of Homeboy Industries; the largest gang rehabilitation and re-entry program in the world. More than 10,000 people a year walk through the doors of Homeboy Industries, looking for a fresh start. They know that Homeboy is a beacon of hope.

Father Greg has a few common themes that run through every speech that he gives and every book that he writes. These are some of my favorites:

1. **Nobody is Disposable.** Father Greg says that when we stand with the poor, we stand in awe of what they have to carry, rather than in judgment of how they carry it. (I don't know if anybody else needs to hear that message, but I sure do.)
2. **Nobody should be outside of the circle of compassion.** The circle should grow and grow until there is no longer "us" and "them," but just "us."
3. Inside of that circle is **kinship**. Father Greg tells a story about two Homeboys who work together at Homeboy Industries. They've been working together for a while, and they were once in rival gangs. But now, they have such a fun-loving relationship that one sent a text to the other that said, "Hey man, you gotta come and bail me out. They got me in the city lock-up with the charge of being the ugliest man in America. You gotta come down here and prove them wrong!" These two Homeboys used to shoot at each other with actual bullets. Now they give each other "the business," like we all do with our favorite people. They've started to see beyond a manufactured rivalry. Now they are encircled in kinship.
4. **You are exactly what God had in mind when God created you.** Father Greg offers a good reminder that God isn't using a measuring stick that we have to live up to. Instead God is too busy delighting in us, just as we are. Isn't that refreshing? We've been taught for so long that we have to punish ourselves with hateful thoughts about our own unworthiness. But what a joyful understanding of God's non-stop love for us, to envision God being delighted by us. No exceptions.

I hope that in the coming season of Lent, you might remind yourselves of these little tidbits about God's extravagant love for all people.

Peace and Kinship,

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

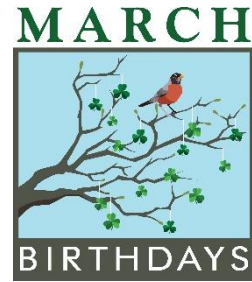
<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	
Bruce Romanic	Jeffrey Clutcher	Bill Hoffa
<u>2027</u>		Craig Rhoades
Jill Heitzman		

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



- 3-01 Adam Joraskie
- 3-02 Ellen Pasterski
- 3-09 Eliana Hardin
- 3-10 Aaron Hershberger
- 3-11 Bree Ethridge
- 3-14 Gail Bickhart
- 3-14 Cynthia Williams
- 3-15 Sadie Mae Kopitsky
- 3-17 Sherlyn Fiorey
- 3-25 Ellalin Hardin

Grace Lutheran Church	
Building Fund Report	
JANUARY 2025	
Balance December 31, 2024	\$4746.34
Income	
Green Envelopes	
Jan. 5	\$175.00
Jan.12	\$5.00
Jan, 19	\$20.00
Jan. 26	\$20.00
Total Income	\$220.00
New Balance	\$4966.34
Expenses	
Kreco	\$130.73
Total Expense	\$130.73
Balance January 31, 2025	\$4835.61
Respectfully submitted	
Charlene Pell, Treasurer	

SERVERS FOR MARCH

DATE	<u>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</u>
3/2	Bruce Romanic
3/9	Ron Weller
3/16	Pam & Craig Rhoades
3/23	David Kopitsky
3/30	Jeffrey Clutcher

ALTAR CARE

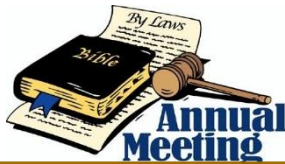
3/2	Treva Madison & Joanne Templin
3/9	Shelley Faust & Jeanne Hoffa
3/16	Pam & Craig Rhoades
3/23	Debra Keefer & Karena Weikel
3/30	Marsha Karnes

HEAD USHER

John Strausser

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.



OFFICIAL NOTICE

The annual congregational dinner and meeting will be held Sunday March 30 in the Fellowship Hall following the morning Worship Service.

Ash  Wednesday Service

There will be a Service of Word and Sacrament on Ash Wednesday (March 5) at 7:00 pm. The Service will be on Zoom so remember to have your communion supply with you,

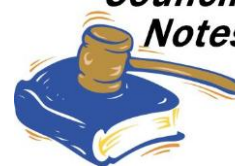
Zoom numbers are:

ID 6215575058

Password 628437

Phone 1-646-558-8656

Council Notes



Council met on Zoom January 30. The current officers were reelected by acclamation. They are Bruce Romanic, president, Jeffrey Clutcher, vice president, Sandee Cupp, secretary, Nancy Joraskie, treasurer, and Debra Keefer, financial secretary.

The president requested that the Property Committee become active. Current members are Jeff Clutcher, Craig Rhoades, Bill Hoffa, and Bill Joraskie.

The annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday March 30 after worship. Jim Shingara will be asked about preparing a meal before the business meeting.

The results of a recent survey did not resolve any issues listed,

The next meeting will be February 27 on Zoom.



MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship 10 am	3 Table Tennis 6 pm	4 Tulpehocken Pastors Conference 10 am	5  Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm on Zoom	6 Ministerium 10 am	7 AA Meeting 7 pm	8  Time to Spring Ahead
9 Worship 10am Healing Service After Worship	10 Table Tennis 6 pm Cecilian Club 7 pm	11 	12 Bible Study 10:30 am	13	14 AA Meeting 7pm	15
16 Worship 10am	17 Table Tennis 6 pm  St. Patrick's Day	18 Deans Meeting 11 am	19 Bible Study 10:30 am	20  HELLO SPRING!	21 AA Meeting 7 pm	22
23 Worship 10am 30 Worship 10am Cong. Meeting	24 T Tennis 6pm 31 Table Tennis 6 pm	25	26 Bible Study 10:30 am	27	28 AA Meeting 7 pm	29 

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report
JANUARY 2025

GENERAL FUND

Beginning Balance January 1, 2025	\$ 31,368.12
Receipts	\$ 6,059.53
Expenditures	\$ 10,360.22-
Ending Balance January 31, 2025	\$ 27,067.43

First National Bank

1/1/2025 through 1/31/2025

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
16692	1/2/2025	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 458.33
16693	1/2/2025	Bloom Heating	\$ 1,662.00
Debit	1/2/2025	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 220.92
Debit	1/2/2025	UGI	\$ 123.00
Debit	1/8/2025	Aqua PA	\$ 286.19
Debit	1/8/2025	Aqua PA	\$ 29.88
Debit	1/8/2025	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 199.86
Debit	1/9/2025	Church Art Online	\$ 69.95
16694	1/15/2025	1517 Media	\$ 81.51
16695	1/15/2025	Bloom Heating	\$ 212.50
16696	1/15/2025	Metro Pest Control Services, LLC	\$ 80.00
16697	1/15/2025	SCTJSA (Sewer Authority)	\$ 100.00
16698	1/15/2025	City of Shamokin	\$ 400.00
16699	1/15/2025	Tulpehocken Mt. Spring Water Inc	\$ 7.00
Debit	1/18/2025	Keystone Collections Group	\$ 50.00
Debit	1/24/2025	Internal Revenue Service	\$ 1,719.80
Debit	1/24/2025	Pennsylvania Dept. of Revenue	\$ 194.58
Debit	1/24/2025	Keystone Collections Group	\$ 123.28
16700	1/27/2025	Berger's Trinity Peace	\$ 22.00
16701	1/27/2025	1517 Media	\$ 187.36
16702	1/27/2025	TOPP Business Solutions	\$ 69.60
16703	1/27/2025	Boyer, Walter	\$ 172.22
16704	1/27/2025	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16705	1/27/2025	Marsh, Willie	\$ 225.19
16706	1/27/2025	Orme, Robin	\$ 387.06
16707	1/27/2025	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 2,061.54
Debit	1/27/2025	PenTeleData	\$ 121.44
Debit	1/28/2025	Portico	\$ 471.41
		Total	\$ 10,360.22



Make a catch of fish to show what happens when Jesus calls his first disciples.

What you need:

- Cardboard egg carton
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Darning needle
- Fishing twine
- Scissors
- Googly eyes or buttons
- Glue



What you do:

1. From the egg carton, cut out the 12 cups. From the lid, cut out two fish tails.
2. On a protected surface, turn the cups upside down. Paint the outside of each cup and both sides of the tails. Let dry.
3. Thread the needle with an arm's length of twine. Tie a knot at the end.
4. Thread the needle through the end of the tail. Tie another knot an inch from the tail.
5. Thread the needle through one upside-down cup. Pull the twine through until the cup rests on the knot.
6. Continue tying knots an inch above each cup and threading on another cup until you've strung six cups. Tie a knot above the last cup and leave a long string to hang the fish. (You can make two fish with each egg carton.)
7. Add googly eyes or buttons to the last cup to make a face.



FROM WORD TO WORLD

Words are important! God spoke and created all things.
What does the psalmist declare about creation?

Directions: Using the word clues, unscramble the letters to complete Psalm 102:25, NIV.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------|
| A preposition | NI | --- |
| An article | HTE | --- |
| Genesis means this | NINBGEIGN | ----- |
| A second-person pronoun | OUY | --- |
| Past tense of <i>to lay</i> | IDAL | --- |
| An article | HET | --- |
| A plural noun meaning <i>base</i> | SODTAINFONU | ----- |
| A preposition showing possession | FO | --- |
| An article | TEH | --- |
| A concrete noun meaning <i>world</i> | HRTEA | ----- |



Psalm 102:25, NIV

Answer: In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth. (Psalm 102:25, NIV)

