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# THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2024

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Dear friends in Christ,

At long last, it is November! If you're like most Americans, you are weary of political ads, no matter who you've voting for. As a rule, I keep politics out of the pulpit, because it's personal for each individual. At the same time, this coming election day is full of tension. As a pastor, I'd like to speak to that tension, so that we can live together as the body of Christ, no matter what our differences are.

A friend shared the following with me, and I thought it was one of the very best things that I have read in anticipation of our coming election day. I share it with you as a springboard to praying for our nation, our neighbors, and especially those with whom we disagree.

## THE CHRISTIAN VOTER'S GUIDE by Brian Zahnd

1. The political process, while necessary, has little to do with how God is saving the world.
2. The fate of the kingdom of God does not depend upon political contests.
3. Don't be naïve, political parties are more interested in Christian votes than they are in Christian values.
4. The bottom line for political parties is power. The bottom line for a Christian is love. And therein lies the rub.
5. While in pursuit of the Ring of Power, you are not permitted to abandon the Sermon on the Mount.
6. If your political passion makes it hard for you to love your neighbor as yourself, you need to turn it down a notch.
7. Your task is to bring the salt of Christian civility to an ugly and acrimonious political process.
8. To dismember the body of Christ over politics is a grievous sin.
9. Exercise your liberty to vote your conscience and conviction, while accepting that other Christians will do the same and vote differently than you.
10. It's more important that your soul be filled with love than it is for your political team to win the game.

God is alive and on the move. That *has always* been true. That *will always* be true. Leaders will come and go, but God's word and *God's love will not ever cease to be*. We have more in common as fellow children of a loving God than any political party can ever divide. Please remember that voting is important, and praying is even more important.

Philippians 4:5-8 speaks to this season.

**4** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. **5** Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. **6** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**8** Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things

Peace at the ballot box,  
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



11/02 Terry Keefer  
 11/07 Andrew Kimmel  
 11/07 John Strausser  
 11/10 Charlene Pell  
 11/15 Ronald Weller  
 11/28 Robert Weaver



11/4 Mr. & Mrs. Darryl Herner  
 11/13 Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Clutcher  
 11/20 Mr. & Mrs. Guy Pell  
 11/26 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bickhart  
 11/27 Mr. & Mrs. Barry Smith

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

<b>Balance August 31, 2024</b>	<b>\$4747.32</b>
Income	
Green Envelopes	
Sep. 1	\$140.00
Sep. 8	\$40.00
Sep. 15	\$20.00
Sep. 22	\$20.00
Sep. 29	\$60.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$280.00</b>
<b>New Balance</b>	<b>\$5097.32</b>
Expenses	
None	\$0.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Balance September 30, 2024</b>	<b>\$5027.32</b>

Respectfully submitted  
 Charlene Pell, Treasurer

**SERVERS FOR NOVEMBER**

DATE	<u><b>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</b></u>
11/3	Shelley Faust
11/10	Ron Weller                    1
11/17	Jeanne & Bill Hoffa
11/24	Bruce Romanic

	<u><b>ALTAR CARE</b></u>
11/3	Pam & Craig Rhoades
11/10	Debbie Keefer & Karena Weikel
11/17	Marsha Karnes
11/24	Treva Madison & Joanne Templin

**HEAD USHER**  
John Strausser



**OFFICIAL NOTICE**

There will be a congregational meeting Sunday December 8 after worship. The purpose of the meeting is to adopt a budget for 2025 and elect members to the congregation council.



Council met October 24 on Zoom. Pastor Sarah reported she is doing a Wednesday morning Bible Study and has begun doing monthly services at the Harold Thomas Highrise.

The Property Committee will replace the back office door at the parsonage, and seek a bid for replacement of damaged tiles in the side entrance and stairway. Trees have been cut down and the glass is being replace in the broken windows. The roof has been repaired. The budget for 2025 is being prepared and reflects a 2.8% increase. A date was set for the congregation to approve the budget and elect members to council.

The Salvation Army will be asked for an increase in reimbursement as utilities have increased significantly.



Thanks and appreciation to everyone who filled a Seafarer Bag. They will be on their way to New York for distribution to the seamen who are far away from home on Christmas.

Thank you to all who attended the Joint Reformation Service and dinner. Grace Church members responded to Pastor Sarah's request to attend. It was a great Service and a delicious dinner.



# A DAY OF DAY OF Thanks NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 AA Meeting 7 pm	2 Set Your Clocks Back 
3 Worship 10 am 	4	5 Tulpehocken Conference 10 am 	6 Bible Study 10:30 am	7 Ministerium 10 am	8 AA Meeting 7 pm	9
10 Worship 10 am Healing Service After Worship	11  VETERANS DAY	12	13 Bible Study 10:30 am	14	15 AA Meeting 7 pm	16 
17 Worship 10am	18	19	20 	21	22 AA Meeting 7 pm	23
24 Sunday School 9 am Worship 10 am	25	26 	27	28 Happy Thanksgiving 	29 AA Meeting 7 pm	30

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

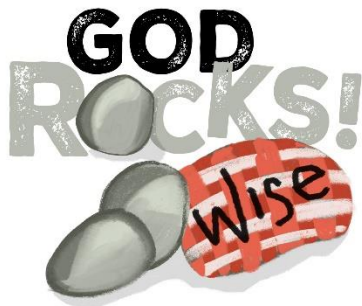
**GENERAL FUND**

<b>Beginning Balance September 1, 2024</b>	<b>\$ 12,107.17</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 5,583.43</b>
<b>Funds Transferred from Endowment Fund</b>	<b>\$ 26,358.89</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 10,280.17-</b>
<b>Ending Balance September 30, 2024</b>	<b>\$ 33,769.32</b>

**First National Bank**

9/1/2024 through 9/30/2024

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
16636	9/1/2024	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 458.33
16637	9/1/2024	Bloom Heating	\$ 1,662.00
Debit	9/3/2024	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 288.89
Debit	9/3/2024	UGI	\$ 121.23
Debit	9/9/2024	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 201.42
Debit	9/9/2024	Aqua PA	\$ 26.75
Debit	9/9/2024	Aqua PA	\$ 76.73
16638	9/17/2024	1517 Media	\$ 325.58
16639	9/17/2024	Brotherhood Mutual Insurance	\$ 2,281.00
16640	9/17/2024	SCTJSA - (Sewer Authority)	\$ 100.00
16641	9/17/2024	Tulpehocken Mt. Spring Water Inc	\$ 7.00
Debit	9/17/2024	Portico	\$ 418.38
Debit	9/25/2024	PenTeleData	\$ 118.33
16642	9/28/2024	Boyer, Walter	\$ 437.06
16643	9/28/2024	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16644	9/28/2024	Marsh, Willie	\$ 222.59
16645	9/28/2024	Orme, Robin	\$ 437.06
16646	9/28/2024	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 2,055.84
Debit	9/30/2024	Portico	\$ 418.38
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 10,280.17</b>



Make decorative stones as reminders of God's many great attributes.

**What you need:**

- Flat, smooth stones
- Printed, decorative napkins
- Paintbrush
- Clear-drying craft glue
- Scissors
- Permanent marker



**What you do:**

1. Unfold the napkin, carefully separating the printed side from the solid side.
2. Brush a thin layer of glue atop a stone. Lay the napkin (printed side up) on the glue and press down. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
3. Turn the stone over and paint more glue on the back. Wrap the napkin edges around the stone, trimming as needed. Paint more glue over the napkin. Let dry.
4. On the stone, write an attribute of God (loving, wise, powerful, merciful, etc.).
5. Repeat with more stones. Use them as gifts, paperweights, table decorations, etc.

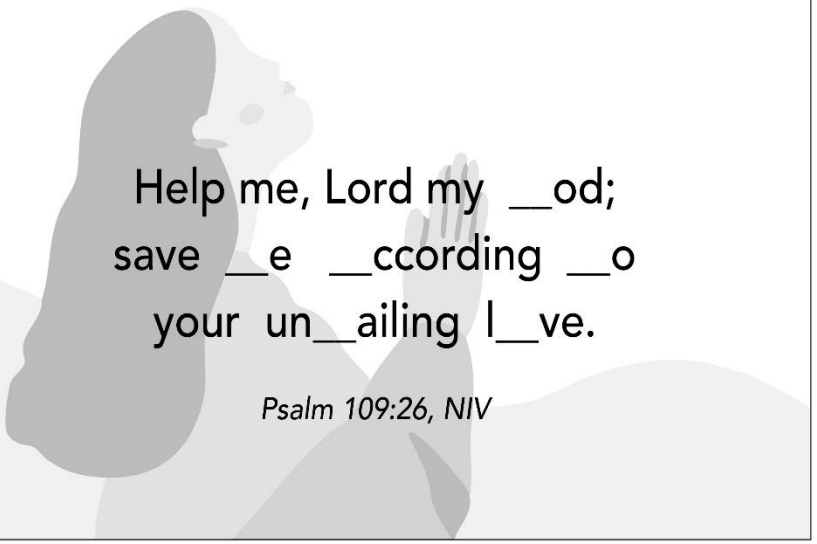


# BECAUSE OF WHO GOD IS

Thanks to who God is, we can talk to him in prayer.

*Directions: Unscramble the descriptions of God, using the Bible references as clues. Then write the circled letters below to complete Psalm 109:26, NIV*

Psalm 145:8	SGAICURO	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Job 36:5	HGIYMT	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Psalm 90:2	LTAVREENISG	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
2 Peter 3:9	INETTPA	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
1 Thessalonians 5:24	FUFHIATL	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Isaiah 40:25	OYHL	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____



Help me, Lord my \_\_\_od;  
save \_\_\_e \_\_\_ccording \_\_\_o  
your un\_\_\_ailing l\_\_\_ve.

*Psalm 109:26, NIV*

Answers: gracious, mighty, everlasting, patient, faithful, holy; Help me, Lord my God; save me according to your unflinching love; Psalm 109:26, NIV

