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# THE VISION

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2024

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Dear friends in Christ,

**This is a rare and glorious JOINT NEWSLETTER ARTICLE for both the Elysburg Parish, and Grace Lutheran Church in Shamokin.** (You may now erupt into cheers of joy and delight. Let the cheers commence.) (WOOHOOO!!)

WHY is a joint newsletter article happening? Because all three congregations have SO MANY of the same things happening, that togetherness should be celebrated. (Celebrated? Well, that's the same word we use to describe communion—we *celebrate* the Eucharist!) Why yes! Celebration is simply a part of who we are as children of God, because a community celebration literally happens once a week when we share communion together. So this newsletter article for all three congregations is a mini-celebration of all that togetherness. Oh my gosh, it just fills my pastor's heart with joy. Okay, so onto the important business. There are Important Things To Know (hereafter ITTK) for the coming weeks. Ready?

**ITTK #1. It's Seafarer Bag Season!** We have a whole bunch of seafarer bags available at all three churches, with a list inside of the bag of the things that need to be purchased for each bag. These bags are given to the Seafarers International House in New York City, to distribute at Christmastime. Many people who work on ships are far from their homes and families for months at a time. Christmas is no exception. These bags help them to know that they are not alone and are a great reminder of God's love for them. Please take a bag and fill it with the needed items. The deadline will be the same day that we dedicate the seafarer bags, which will be....(wait for it, wait for it!....)

**ITTK #2! Our JOINT REFORMATION DAY SERVICE on OCTOBER 27th!** I am so excited that I'm already doing some crafts for this event. It's a day when we have red paraments and red stoles, so if you also felt like wearing Reformation Red, you could. It would be fun and celebratory. Also? And this is big. (Are you sitting down? You should. Go ahead. Take a minute and have a seat. Because this next one is big.)

**ITTK #3: THE BISHOP IS PREACHING FOR THE JOINT SERVICE!** So, here's what this means. My sermons are pretty short. His are less short. In fact, our preaching lengths and our respective heights are comparable. (Because he's tall and he preaches for a little longer than me, in case you've never seen him in person.) Anyway, after the service, there will be a meal at St. Mark's for us to share. So, cancel your brunch reservations and join the celebration!

**ITTK #4: Grace is having its annual Pet Blessing on October 6, at 2pm on the corner of Market and Chestnut in Shamokin.** Bring your dog, cat, guinea pig, or goldfish, and you will get a blessing and a treat for your animal. (No snacks for goldfish, however.)

**ITTK #5: God loves you, every day, every minute.** No matter what. No exceptions. Just take a minute to let that soak into your soul today.

Peace, and a full calendar,  
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

 **OCTOBER**  
 Birthdays

10-04 Pamala Rhoades  
 10-05 Elizabeth Wondoloski  
 10-07 Eric Joraskie  
 10-07 Gladys Shingara  
 10-07 Eugene Machusak  
 10-13 Pastor Sarah Hershberger  
 10-14 Kathleen Madara  
 10-15 Judith Shade  
 10-18 Mark Hardin  
 10-22 David Ethridge

 **OCTOBER**  
 Birthdays & Anniversaries

10-13 Mr. & Mrs. R. Craig Rhoades  
 10-14 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fiorey  
 10-17 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Weaver

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

<b>Balance July 31, 2024</b>	<b>\$4893.32</b>
Income	
Green Envelopes	
Aug. 4	\$130.00
Aug. 11	\$34.00
Aug. 18	\$10.00
Aug. 25	\$30.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$204.00</b>
<b>New Balance</b>	<b>\$5097.32</b>
Expenses	
Bloom Heating	200.00
Hillcrest Roofing	150.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>
<b>Balance August 31, 2024</b>	<b>\$4747.32</b>

Respectfully submitted  
 Charlene Pell, Treasurer



**SERVERS FOR OCTOBER**

DATE	<u><b>WORSHIP ASSISTANTS</b></u>	
10/6	David Kopitsky	
10/13	Bruce Romanic	1
10/20	Jeff Clutcher	
10/27	Joint Service	

**ALTAR CARE**

10/6	Debbie Keefer & Karen Weikel
10/13	Marsha Karnes
10/20	Treva Madison & Joanne Templin
10/27	Joint Service

**HEAD USHER**

John Strausser



Pastor Sarah will hold the annual “Blessing of the Pets” on **Sunday October 6** at 2 pm in the park at Market and Chestnut Streets. You are invited to bring your dog, cat, bird, or whatever pet you may have to the brief service and individual blessing. The Service is held each year on the Sunday closest to St. Francis Day (October 4). St. Francis of Assisi valued all of God’s creation, especially the farm animals and those in homes as pets. Our pets are important and part of our families, and are invited to church on this special day. Invite your friends and family to bring their pets to receive this special blessing and a treat.



**Bloodmobile**

Grace Church will cohost the American Red Cross Bloodmobile on **Tuesday October 8**. The Bloodmobile will be held at the Knights of Columbus, 400 E. Independence Street. (It is easier for unloading and loading the equipment.) **HELP IS NEEDED! COOKIES** are needed and can be dropped at Grace Church before 11 am or taken to Knights of Columbus after noon. **VOLUNTEERS** are needed to help register donors and serve in the canteen. Just one hour of your time will be appreciated. **Contact Shelley Faust at 570-648-5400 if you can help in any way.** **DONORS** are needed to make the visit a success. If you are at least 17 years of age and in reasonably good health, please consider giving the gift of life. One pint of blood can help several people when it is broken down. Donors will receive a \$10 gift card to Amazon. No help is needed for unloading and loading as the Knights of Columbus will take care of help for that.












Thank you to everyone for the cards, gifts, and well wishes I received on my 100th birthday. Special thanks to Pastor Sarah and the congregation for the song, sign, and singing. You are the best, and I am blessed to have so many dear friends.

*Art Martin*



# OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Tulpehocken Pastors Conference 10 am	2	3 Ministerium 10 am	4 AA Meeting 7 pm	5 
6 Worship 10 am Pet Blessing 2 pm	7	8  <i>Bloodmobile</i> Noon-6 pm	9 Bible Study 10:30 am	10 	11 AA Meeting 7 pm	12
13 Worship 10 am Healing Service After Worship	14 	15 Deans Meeting 11 am	16 Bible Study 10:30 am	17	18 AA Meeting 7 pm	19 
20 Worship 10am	21	22 	23 Bible Study 10:30 am	24	25 AA Meeting 7 pm	26
27 Reformation Worship at St. Mark 10am	28 	29	30 Bible Study 10:30 am	31 <b>HALLOWEEN</b> 		

## *Christmas-at-Sea*

*A Holiday Initiative of*



# Seafarers International House

*Your Way of Bringing Joy to the World!*

Imagine you were alone on a major holiday like Christmas, Ramadan, Thanksgiving or Hanukkah. Depressing. This is why we invite you, your business, school group or congregation to bring joy to seafarers who will not be home with their loved ones for Christmas. Our port chaplains bring satchels filled with gifts to the ships for the holiday. Every crew member on a ship regardless of their faith or nationality will open their satchels, each containing:

- One Sweatshirt – hooded or unhooded (size M-L-XL **ONLY**)
- Three Pairs of Socks – thermal or gym (**NO ANKLE SOCKS**)
- One T- Shirt (size M-L-XL **ONLY**)
- One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional; no pastels please),
- One Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar
- A Holiday or Christmas card from YOU!
- **PLEASE REMOVE ALL STORE TAGS FROM CLOTHING**

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but **please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms.** The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be identical for each member of the crew. And, **please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and with a black magic marker label the satchel with a M, L, or XL on the back side. DO NOT INCLUDE SWEATSHIRTS OR T-SHIRTS WITH WEAPONS OR INAPPROPRIATE PICTURES.**

If it is more convenient, **you may make a monetary donation** and have us purchase the items for you. Typically, a completely filled satchel costs about \$35. Please send monetary donations directly to Seafarers International House (see address below).

**We are collecting the satchels throughout the year until October 27.** Remember to put a return address on your Christmas cards. Sometimes crew members send personal thank yous.

To receive empty satchels contact the Upper Susquehanna Synod, 570-524-9778; [brenda@uss-elca.org](mailto:brenda@uss-elca.org)

*Seafarers International House, 123 East 15<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10003*

or visit us at [www.sihnyc.org/christmas-at-sea](http://www.sihnyc.org/christmas-at-sea)

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


**GENERAL FUND**

<b>Beginning Balance August 1, 2024</b>	<b>\$ 10,729.30</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	<b>\$ 8,514.19</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 7,136.32</b>
<b>Ending Balance August 31, 2024</b>	<b>\$ 12,107.17</b>

## First National Bank


8/1/2024 through 8/31/2024

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount
16623	8/1/2024	Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA	\$ 458.33
16624	8/1/2024	Bloom Heating	\$ 1,662.00
Debit	8/2/2024	UGI	\$ 114.00
Debit	8/5/2024	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 364.39
Debit	8/6/2024	Aqua PA	\$ 70.91
Debit	8/6/2024	Aqua PA	\$ 26.75
Debit	8/12/2024	PPL Electric Utilities	\$ 200.18
Debit	8/12/2024	PenTeleData	\$ 121.33
16625	8/15/2024	1517 Media	\$ 171.38
16626	8/15/2024	A+ Office Supply	\$ 60.46
16627	8/15/2024	Metro Pest Control Services, LLC	\$ 80.00
16628	8/15/2024	SCTJSA - (Sewer Authority)	\$ 100.00
16629	8/15/2024	Tulpehocken Mt. Spring Water Inc	\$ 7.00
16630	8/25/2024	Boyer, Walter	\$ 260.50
16631	8/25/2024	Cupp, Sandee	\$ 623.60
16632	8/25/2024	Marsh, Willie	\$ 222.59
16633	8/25/2024	Orme, Robin	\$ 437.06
16634	8/25/2024	Hershberger, Sarah	\$ 2,055.84
16635	8/25/2024	Casey Gonzalez	\$ 100.00
		Total	\$ 7,136.32



the gift of  
**GRACE**

Make this craft as a helpful reminder of Jesus' free gift of grace.





**What you need:**

- Small cardboard box
- Small stones
- Tape
- Wrapping paper and bow
- Permanent marker

**What you do:**

1. Fill the box with small stones to weigh it down. Tape the box securely closed.
2. Wrap the box and add a bow on top.
3. With marker, write a capital letter on each side of the box and the bottom to spell GRACE.
4. Use this as a decoration or paperweight, or give as a gift.
5. Explain GRACE to someone.  
For help, use Ephesians 2:8-9 and the acrostic **God's Riches At Christ's Expense**.

# PUZZLE




## SAVED BY GRACE

Leaders of the early church discussed whether newly converted Gentiles must keep the Law of Moses. How did Peter answer?

*Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks below to complete Acts 15:11, NIV.*

NO/WEGBEKLIBEVGEITIYS  
 TUHRCOUJGHRTHOEGPRAH  
 CEIOFXOUKRLHORCDJSESP  
 USGTHWATYWEOARBESPAVLED  
 RJUCSTQASHTHBEYFAROE

" \_\_\_\_\_!  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_." Acts 15:11, NIV

Answer: "No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." Acts 15:11, NIV

