

Good News from Grace

October 2023

Our Purpose

The purpose of our church is to make a difference by serving others through God's love and our faith.

We concluded the first reading and psalm from the semi-continuous series and return to the regularly appointed lectionary readings. I enjoyed sharing the Old Testament stories with you—the dysfunctional families, their irrational behaviors, God gifting barren women with children and God choosing the most unlikely leaders—because, these stories are our stories and we readily identify with them.

September readings (Old Testament and Gospel) referenced the topic of forgiveness. I've been asked by several of you, "Do I have to forgive....?" or, "How do I forgive....?" These are often followed by a description of really challenging situations.

The thing to remember is that we can forgive for many things. We don't have to forgive the person's behavior implying that what they did or said was acceptable—it wasn't; it was mean and selfish. We forgive because that person does not deserve the power to live in your head and turn you into a bitter, angry person. Let go. Don't keep holding on to that person. You're not hurting them by holding on to that resentment and anger; you're hurting yourself.

Forgiveness releases us or sets us free; it refuses to allow another person to control us. Just as important is to remember that once you forgive to get that person out of your head, you don't have to return to toxic, destructive situations or relationships. Part of letting go is to discover new ways to live so that you can live freely, without the other person continuing to wreak havoc in your life. I know that this is far easier said than done. But I encourage you to let go of relationships that harm you and/or your family—that rob you of life.

Martin Luther discovered that righteousness was not God's expectation but instead, God's gift. It isn't our responsibility to do works to be "right with God," but God's responsibility to put us in a right relationship. Once Luther realized that some of God's favorite things to do are to forgive those who seem unforgivable, love those who feel unlovable, and make right those things that seem so persistently in the wrong, Luther was not only freed from his fear of punishment, but also freed to love and forgive and care for those around him. That is God's AMAZING gift of grace.

Luther's insights spurred a sequence of events that led to the reformation of the church. The church is always changing—always being made new. In what ways are you open to making yourself new? There are a lot of ways to open your heart, mind and soul to hear God's Word in new ways that change and shape us for God's future. If you haven't already, join the Breathing the Word Bible study group and/or the Sunday morning adult class. The insights that we gain from engaging in study with our siblings in Christ are life-changing.

Finally, I encourage you to sign up for the Braver Angel's event on Saturday, October 28, 9:00 am—12:00 noon. "Depolarizing Within" will guide us toward constructive ways to disagree without ridicule and contempt—another way to set us free to live anew!

I look forward to seeing you at any one or more of the faith formation events so we can grow together as we exchange our joys and sorrows, hopes and fear, grace and love for one another and for all of God's children.

Blessings on this faith journey, Pastor Lois

Join us for Worship!

Saturdays at 5:00PM Sundays at 9:30AM

via Live Stream

Sunday School Sundays at 10:45am September to May

Senior Helpers



Grace's Senior Helpers are here to get you where you need to go. Contact the church office Monday - Thursday

from 8am - 12noon at 717-737-0439 or email gelc@comcast.net for a list of members who are available to drive you.

If you'd like to be added to the Senior Helper list to take member places contact the church office.



Lost & Found check the Lost & Found tub & coat rack in the Library if you are missing items.

Grace will hold the items for one month. If they are not claimed by then the items will be donated. Unable to stop in then call the office (717-737-0439) and we'll look for you.

This Month at Grace...

The Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship for **October** is given by the late Diane Brokenshire in memory of her mother.

The Special Benevolence Offering for **October** is **Lutheran World Relief.** To contribute please list the dollar amount next to Special Offering Ministry and list Lutheran World Relief under comments. *If you want it to specifically to go to* Wildfire Relief please note that on contribution envelope.

2023 Sponsorship Opportunities

CLICK HERE to see available dates 2023. If you are interested in sponsoring one of these weeks you can either sign up on the bulletin board across from the elevator or contact Diane in the church office at 717-737-0439 x15 or deppengelc@gmail.com.

Note: Other Altar Flower dates are available for sponsorship at special request by contacting the church office two weeks date you wish to sponsor.

If you sponsor a week, but do not plan to take the flowers home please let the church office know prior to that week. We have a member who will deliver flowers to Grace's homebound members.



FAITH FORMATION - CHILDREN & YOUTH



Youth Food Cards

Karns, Weis and Giant grocery cards in the dollar amounts of \$25, \$50, and \$100 are available at the church office Monday - Thursday from 8am - 12noon.

Sunday School

Sundays at 10:45am

You can see the full Sunday School schedule **HERE**.

GYG Upcoming Events

October

8 GYG Night

22 Game Day @ Kentland

29 Fall Fest @ Kentland 4:00 - 6:00pm

November

12 GYG Night

19 Advent Event

10:45am - 12:00pm

26 GYG Night

You can view complete GYG schedule **HERE.**

JYG Upcoming Events

October

29 Fall Fest @ Kentland 4:00 -6:00pm

November

5 JYG

10:45am - 12:00pm

19 Advent Event

19 10:45am - 12:00pm

You can view complete JYG schedule **HERE**.

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday

On Sunday, September 10 some of Grace's members and youth along with members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lemoyne placed Spotted Lanternfly tape (and mesh to protect other animals from getting stuck) on trees in Memorial Park, Lemoyne. You can see additional images on the bulletin board in the parking lot hallway.









ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL Sundays, 10:45 am—Conference Room Beginning September 24, 2023

We are starting an Adult Sunday School class at your request! The year will begin with a study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. This series offers a "detailed and colorful overview of Matthew 5-7" by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, University Professor of New

Testament and Jewish Studies and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences.

After learning more about Jesus' radical teachings on the Kingdom of Heaven against the socio-economic and political backdrop of the Roman Empire, we'll learn about the ELCA social statements and select one or two for a deeper study (class choice). Since 1991 the ELCA has been creating social statements—teaching and policy documents that provide a framework for the church and its members to think, discuss and act on social issues from a perspective that intersects faith and society. "Social teaching documents aren't confessional or litmus tests, meaning you're only Lutheran if you believe every word, but they put into writing the faith-based thinking about social issues that guides members and the public work of our church," Willer said. "Social teaching documents think through—from the perspective of faith—the frameworks needed for discerning God's call to be people who love, seek justice and respond to social issues." [Roger Willer, ELCA director for theological ethics with the Office of the Presiding Bishop.]

On the horizon is a 12 week video series by Sister Joan Chittister on The Ten Commandments. Sister Joan "offers an honest and refreshing approach to the Ten Commandments." She asks, "What are the Ten Commandments and what do they mean to us now in a world where Jew, Christian, and Muslim all claim to embrace Moses and the Tablets of Sinai as the foundation of our law, however many other laws we all add to them?" Participants are invited "to think deeply about the moral fibers of our society. She presents the idea that the Ten Commandments are an adventure in human growth—that we are not so much convicted by them as we are transformed by them."

Date	Topic	Scripture
Sept 24	Sermon on the Mount—The Beatitudes	Matthew 4:23-5:12
Oct 1	Sermon on the Mount—The Extensions	Matthew 5:17-20
Oct 8	Sermon on the Mount—Practicing Piety	Matthew 5:13-16; 6:1-8, 16-18
Oct 15	Sermon on the Mount—Our Father	Matthew 6:9-15
		Deuteronomy 6:4-9
Oct 22	Sermon on the Mount—Finding Your Treasure	Matthew 6:19-7:5
Oct 29	Sermon on the Mount—Living into the Kingdom	Matthew 7:6-27
Nov 5	ELCA Social Statements—What are they?	ELCA Social —
Nov 12	Social Statement study of choice begins	
Nov 19		Statements —
Nov 26		Diatements
Dec 3		4 WER.
Dec 10		
Dec 17		



"Breathing the Word" Bible Study Tuesdays, 1:00 pm—Conference Room Beginning September 19, 2023

We gather once again to study God's Word. Bible stories are about the breath of God—the ways in which God's breath is life-giving, life-changing, cleansing and spoken.

Ruach is the Hebrew word for "breath," or "wind," or "spirit.". In Scripture, the word is applied both to human beings and to God. Depending on the context, ruach can be talking about a person's emotional state of being, or their soul or spirit, and is sometimes used as

an idiom, as in "a mere breath.".

Pneuma (πνεῦμα) is the Greek word for "breath" and in a religious context for "spirit" or "soul." In Stoic thought: the vital spirit, soul, or creative force of a person.

We will begin "Breathing the Word" with an introduction to the Bible—the type of books, the language (Hebrew and Greek), the style of literature and some key words.

Then we turn to "walking in the footsteps of Paul." Join Pastor Lois on the journey she took in October 2021 to walk where Paul walked in modern day Turkey and Greece. We will focus on Paul's letters that tell the stories of new church plants and the ways in which he breathed the Word of God on new converts.

The four weeks before Christmas, the Season of Advent, will tie back to the beginning of our walk with Paul by studying the *Names for the Messiah* by Walter Brueggemann.

Here is the schedule. Mark your calendar now so that you don't miss the opportunity to "Breathe the Word of God!"

Date	Topic	Scripture
Sept 19	Bible Basics	
Sept 26	Philip II (Macedonia) and Roman/Greek gods	TBA
Oct 3	Paul in Philippi	Acts 9 – Conversion of Paul Acts 16 – Macedonia – Lydia Philippians (Paul's letter)
Oct 10	Paul in Thessalonica (Thessaloniki)	Acts 17:1-15 1 and 2 Thessalonians (Paul's letters)
Oct 17	Meteora, Greece – Monasteries and Icon Studio TBA	
Oct 24	Paul in Athens Acts 17:16-33	
Oct 31	Paul in Corinth Acts 18:1-18 1 and 2 Corinthians (Paul's letters)	
Nov 7	Paul in Ephesus	Acts 18:18 Acts: 19:1-41; 20 [1-16] 17-38 Ephesians (Paul's letter)
Nov 14 & 21	Break (Pr Lois on vacation)	
Nov 28	Names for the Messiah by Walter Brueggemann— "Wonderful Counselor"	Isaiah 9:6
Dec 5	"Mighty God"	Isaiah 9:6
Dec 12	"Everlasting Father"	Isaiah 9:6
Dec 19	"Prince of Peace"	Isaiah 9:6

Page 6 PRAYERS



Prayer List Additions

Everyone appreciates prayer but not everyone wishes to be added to the "out loud" prayers.

If you are aware of a member of Grace who could benefit from being added to the prayers, please let one of the pastors know. They will contact the individual to find out whether they wish to be added to the "out loud" prayers, ongoing prayers or prayed for "quietly" by the Community Prayer Group.

We hold in prayer especially this week...

Judi Fenicle Eric Rome, John Aldridge, Dana Moore, Lynne Crumling, Ed Yoffee, Lynn Royal, Pat Ensmlinger, Shirley Davis, Dale Swenson, Bob, Marcie, Luke & Wesley Beam, Shana Funk, Dean Jury and the friends & family of Diane Brokenshire.

We hold in ongoing prayer...

Pete P, John McNichol, Kay King, Jonathan Friedman, Bill Magruder, Carolyn Houck, Justin Minnich, Steven Fry, Michelle Hillegas, Darlene M., Eileen McCann, and Mike Lutz.

We also hold our homebound in prayer:

Betty Bennett,, Gladys Cline, Yvonne Gettys, Joan Harman, John Hench, Frank Hills, Sis Hoffman, Shirley Hughes, Howard Lauver, Lou Lore, Patti Reed, Bob & Ruth Rhodes, Mary Louise Shetter, Dorothy Shreffler, John Shuey, and Sandy Yetter.

Praying for our Homebound Members

The pastoral staff wishes to lift up this special group of members on a regular basis during the prayers. Each week, a group of homebound members will be included in the out loud prayers.

...sometimes we forget to tell others that someone has healed...

Let's be good stewards of our prayer list. If someone has healed, or if someone has moved on to eternal life, please let the church office know. Names will automatically be moved to the ongoing prayers after a month on the weekly prayers, which are read out load during worship. They will then be removed from the ongoing prayers after another month unless you let us know to keep praying.

For Pastoral Assistance or At Home Communion

Pastor Lois, Interim Pastor 717-579-1875 prvo2005@gmail.com

"We are to pray in times of adversity, lest we become faithless and unbelieving. We are to pray in times of prosperity, lest we become boastful and proud. We are to pray in times of danger, lest we become fearful and doubting. We are to pray in times of security, lest we become self-sufficient." - Billy Graham

The Measure of Our Wealth (From August 8, 2013)

Then Jesus told them a parable: 'The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, "What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?" Then he said, "I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry." But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.'- LUKE 12:16-21

Here in 21st century North America, we do an excellent job of knowing exactly how rich we are in things of this world.

I should know: Every month, without fail, I receive statements detailing to the penny the balances in my checking, savings and retirement accounts. Also without fail I receive statements detailing to the penny my liabilities in credit cards and other debt.

To make things even easier, I use a household accounting software program to put all this information together. The result? I know exactly how much money I have month by month.

We do a good job of tracking how rich we are in worldly wealth. But we are not so good when it comes to knowing how rich we are towards God.

The point of all of Luke 12's teachings about wealth is to underscore our lopsided value system — we are obsessed with working ourselves to the bone to become rich in possessions, but we are impoverished when it comes to the true riches that God is eager to give us in abundance.

It's a trap that snares many. The parable of the rich fool reminds us that being rich in wealth but poor towards God was a problem long before the 21st century!

We keep close track of our worldly wealth. But what statements would measure how rich we are toward God? How would your "monthly statements" look in each of these measures:

- Daily deep prayer.
- Weekly church attendance.
- Daily Bible reading.
- Hours of service to church and community.
- Hours spent nourishing spiritual relationships.
- Giving to church a tithe and beyond.

Some may recognize these as the "Six Marks of Discipleship" listed in Michael Foss' wonderful 2009 book, *Real Faith for Real Life*. It's a very accessible guide to the spiritual life. The book correctly asserts that the more attention we pay to the six marks, the deeper we will grow as disciples of Christ.

Through monthly bank and finance statements most of us know exactly how rich we are in worldly wealth. Maybe we need to start preparing "statements" to keep track of exactly how rich we are towards God. How about it? Are you up to the challenge?

--Rob Blezard

Reprinted by permission. Pastor Blezard serves part-time as web editor for the Stewardship of Life Institute and full-time as pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD.

Click here for a complete and up-to-date bio for Pastor Blezard.



Members and Friends of Grace,

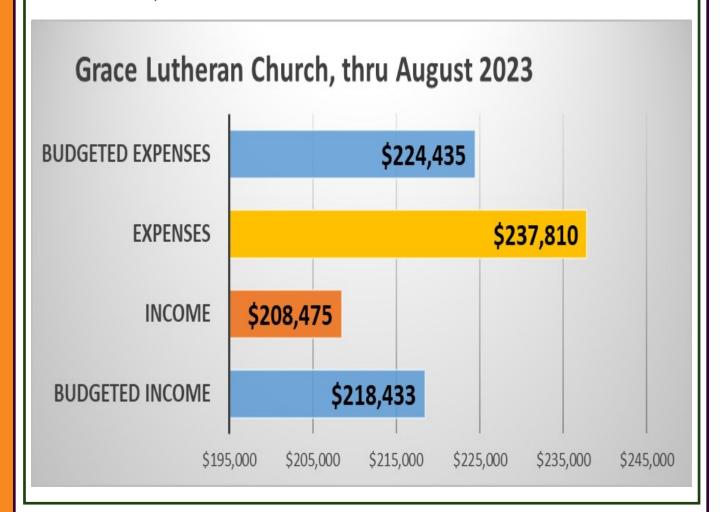
Now that we're entering fall, the activities of the church are increasing. Your fellow members and everyone who participates in or is touched by our activities appreciate your support.

While my focus is normally financial, I also want to point out that Grace has many volunteer opportunities available. Our various ministries would be so

happy to have your help. As they say: many hands make light work.

Thank you for your continued faith in Grace's ministries!

-Susan Dickinson, Treasurer



From the Church Council Actions September 2023

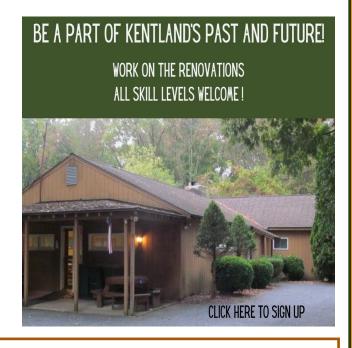


Council approved a stipend for Will Youse who was a camp counselor at Kirchenwald in the summer.

Council voted to accept into membership Pat O'Neal, Nathan, Miriam, Cora, Levi, and Eliza Chesky, and Vaughn Manlove.

VOLUNTEERING Page 9

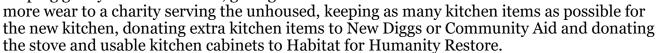




Kentland Project

Renovations have begun at Kentland. So far the volunteers have accomplished cleaning out all the cabinets as well as removing the kitchen and living room area cabinets, removing furniture, disassembling and removing the bunk beds, removing the drop ceilings, removal of fluorescent lights and installation of temporary lighting, and permits have been received. (Thanks to G.S. Flook).

Grace is being good stewards of our resources and environment by gifting usable bunk beds to New Diggs, keeping gently used mattresses, gifting mattresses with



If you haven't seen the Kentland project drawings in the Library you can view them **HERE**.











Fall Fest at Kentland* Sunday, October 29 4-6pm

Come enjoy a costume parade (arrive in costume if you wish to participate), crafts, a scavenger hunt, dinner and a campfire. We will also be holding a chili cookoff!

If you sign up to participate in the chili cookoff, bring (1) crockpot of your chili . Ladles and bowls will be provided.

Dinner will be hot dogs, mac n cheese, chili and s'mores!

Register <u>HERE</u> or contact the church office at 717-737-0439. Please indicate the number attending, how many kids and if you

will be bringing a crockpot of chili.

We will all vote on our favorite chili and the winner will receive a prize! ALL ages are welcome and you are welcome to bring friends for this casual fellowship event.

Hosted by the Fellowship Ministry

Contact Hope Pankake (hopeswenson@gmail.com) with questions.

* Please note that Kentland will be under active renovation so Fall Fest will be held outdoors; however, the restrooms will be available. If it is necessary to move it to the church because of construction or inclement weather we will email, post on the website and Facebook as well as announce at worship.



Join us for the Community Meal on the is the 2nd & 4th Wednesday each month from 5:30 - 6:30pm in the Social Hall.

More information at https://www.gracecamphill.org/service

September's Community Meals will be on:

Wednesday, October 11 & 25

View menu **Here**





ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE GELC Endowment Committee at Work

The GELC Endowment Committee is one of many means through which we make a difference by serving others through God's love and our faith. The Endowment Committee is responsible for the administration and management of nine endowment funds. These funds were formed through the generosity of past and present members of our church. Some of these members are remembered for their endowment as their names are in the

title of the endowment which they established years ago. Other funds were established by the Endowment Committee and our church leaders to aid organizations who through their work extend the mission of our Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. In most cases the principal from each of the funds cannot be used, however the interest generated from the investments is able to be generously given to these organizations.

At the springtime meeting the Endowment Committee disbursed funds to the following:

- From the Grace Lutheran Evangelical Church General Endowment Fund the following organizations received money to help their causes: New Hope Ministries, Community Check-Up Center, Bethesda Mission, Medard's House, Family Promise, Christian Churches United and St. Barnabas Center
- From the Arthur and Ellen Neal Endowment Fund, Silence of Mary Home and West Shore Meals on Wheels received funds
- From the Food for the Needy Fund Endowment Fund the Central PA Food Bank received
- The Ashway Family Endowment Fund donated to the United Seminary Gettysburg, the Lutheran Camping Corporation and Diakon Wilderness Program.

If any of our church members would like to request a contribution be made to a favorite charity or service organization, they can submit a written request to any of the current members of the Endowment Committee. The current members are Michelle Knight (Chairperson of the Endowment Committee), Larry Hoffman (Secretary of the Endowment Committee), Tracy Alfano-Douty (Treasurer of Endowment Committee), Gloria Boyer, Pastor Lois Van Orden (Intentional Interim Pastor), Alan Gabel and Don Barlup.

Also, if anyone is interested in learning more about establishing a new endowment here at Grace Lutheran, please contact Michelle Knight who will be happy to provide information about how to proceed with making this valuable contribution to our church. Please know that when you establish an endowment fund using our church's guidelines, it can include your name in the title, or it can be anonymous. You can also direct how the earned interest must be used.

Larry Hoffman Secretary

Braver Angels Workshop Saturday, October 28, 2023 | 9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Today, many Americans not only differ politically, but see the other side as an enemy whose beliefs threaten America. Braver Angels was founded in 2016, in response to this growing rift between Americans of different political persuasions. Their answer to this conundrum has been to develop programs to repair "citizen-to-citizen relationships...as well as (make) meaningful changes in the rules and practices of many of our major institutions."

To register for this event **CLICK HERE** or contact the church office at 717-737-0439. Questions can be directed to Rick Keen rkeenb24@aol.com.



John Aldridge 10/1 Maura White Benjamin Glatfelter 10/2**Destiny Glenn** Hope Pankake Debbie Aldridge 10/6 Chris Hyde Mike Ryder 10/7 Janet Sayre 10/8 **Bryce Caron** 10/9 Matthew Hearn Ike Perella-Carvalha Kason Hall 10/10 **Christian Vogelsong** 10/13 Colleen Gill Martha Klingensmith Adam Pankake **Bryson Shenck** Barbara Morrow 10/14 10/17 Heather Flook 10/18 Lolly Judge Ray Kreider 10/19 Patrick Erb

Evan White

Thomas Zimmerman

Let's Celebrate Some Monumental Birthdays!

On **October 18** Ray Kreider turns 94 years old, on **October 21** Jean Junkins turns 101 years old and on **October 30** Robert Heintzelman turns 94 years old. Take a moment to wish them a happy birthday with a telephone call or mail a card to:

Ray Kreider 220 Winding Way Camp Hill, PA 17011

Jean Junkins 325 Wesley Drive Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

> Robert Heintzelman 125 Limestone Drive Camp Hill, PA 17011

Let them know you are thinking of them on these very special occasions.

	10/20	Laura Leer
	10/21	Noah Hartman Jean Junkins
	10/22	R. Andrew Hoff Judith Musselman Claire Pankake Eden Pankake Anderson Shields
ies	10/24	Victoria Madden Libby Perella-Carvalhaes Karen Robison
:h	10/25	Emma Madden Paul Redclift
	10/26	Randy Easton Christine McInnes
	10/27	Sue Painter
	10/29	Grace Mellot Kolsen Scharein
	10/30	Mike Hakes Robert Heintzelman
	10/31	Lauren Rohde

UPCOMING EVENTS

Capture the Flag Spectacular

Sunday, October 1|3-5pm|Camp Kirchenwald (1 Cut Off Rd., Lebanon)

Review your camp map, paint your face, and practice your cone zone celebration dance. Invite your friends and family (parents, too) to join you in the CTF summer reunion event. Play alongside familiar faces from your week at camp, plus campers from every other week of the summer. Campfire worship to follow. This event is FREE, but please **RSVP by September 22** at https://www.lutherancamping.org/rsvp/?rsvp=2581

Grace's Book Club

Join the book club on **Tuesday, October 3 at 7pm via Zoom** as we discuss "Yellowface" by R. F. Kuang. <u>CLICK HERE</u> for login information.

Echo Dell Fall Festival & Old Fashioned Day

Saturday, October 7|10am|Echo Dell Indian Echo Caverns (368 Middletown Rd., Hummelstown) 11th Annual Fall Festival. The day will include arts and crafts vendors, craft demonstrations, food vendors, and old-fashioned games. Fun for the whole family.

Fall Foliage Days

Sunday, October 22 1-6pm Camp Nawakwa (1033 Nawakwa Rd., Biglerville) Sunday, October 29 1-6pm Camp Kirchenwald (1 Cut Off Rd., Lebanon)

Bring your family and friends to camp for a fall afternoon! Enjoy some of your favorite camp activities. An evening meal will be provided. Enjoy Pumpkin Painting, Hayrides, Hiking, and More! *Please register by October 13. Registration fee \$15 per person (4 & under free).* Click on the name of the camp above to register for that day.

Trick or Treat Trek

Sunday, October 29|2-5pm|Fort Hunter Mansion and Park (5300 N. Front St., Harrisburg) Come in costume to Fort Hunter Park for the Trick or Treat Trek. Follow the clues to keep your search on track. Your reward? Goodies.

Good News from Grace articles are due by 12 noon on the 15th of the month for the next month's newsletter. Grace Notes information is due by 12 noon on Tuesdays.

Email to deppengelc@gmail.com

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

1610 Carlisle Road Camp Hill, PA 17011 717-737-0439 gelc@comcast.net

Visit us on Facebook at Grace Lutheran Church, Twitter @grace_elca or on the web at: www.gracecamphill.org