



# Good News from Grace

March 2024

## Our Purpose

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

Mid-March holds a commemoration of Patrick, bishop and missionary to Ireland. This commemoration, fondly called St. Patrick's Day and celebrated on March 17, often "gets lost" in the midst of Lent. Most people associate this day as one to drink Guinness, enjoy corned beef and cabbage, wear green and celebrate all things Irish. But very few people know the true story of the patron saint of Ireland.

Patrick was born Maewyn Succat around 385 in Kilpatrick, Scotland. He was captured by pirates at age 16 during a raid of his hometown and sold into slavery in Ireland where he herded sheep. At the time he was captured, Ireland was inhabited predominantly by Druids and pagans. Maewyn learned the language of the Irish, their customs and pagan beliefs.

However, Maewyn never forgot about God and prayed to the Lord every single day. Some traditions claim that on certain days, he would pray over 100 times.

Six years after he had been captured, God came to Maewyn in a dream and told him to leave Ireland by traveling to the coast. There he boarded a ship back to Britain where he was reunited with his family.

Another dream led him back to Ireland to teach the people about God. Maewyn began religious studies to become a priest. He was ordained by St. Germanus.

Sometime between his service as priest and his ordination as bishop in 432, Maewyn had taken the name Patrick. Pope Celestine I sent Patrick to Ireland to support a small community of Christians living there and to spread the word of God to the Irish people. He preached for 40 years and made an everlasting

imprint and legacy to many believers. Patrick supported church officials, founded monasteries, and organized dioceses (like the synods in the Lutheran Church body).

Patrick is credited with introducing the Celtic cross that consisted of symbols from both Pagan practices and Christianity. He is also honored and associated with legends such as when he drove away all the snakes from Ireland and introducing the Holy Trinity through the three-leaved shamrock.



After years of living in poverty, traveling and enduring much suffering, he died on March 17, 461 at Saul, where he had built the first church.

Our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW), includes a hymn (#450) attributed to Patrick, "I Bind unto Myself Today." The tune, an Irish melody, is named "St. Patrick's Breastplate." The hymn is not an easy one to sing because of the changing melody, but the text reflects a strong trinitarian theology rooted in the Incarnation, baptism and Resurrection of Christ. Stanza 4 is particularly moving:  
*Christ be with me, Christ within me, Christ behind me, Christ before me, Christ beside me, Christ to win me, Christ to comfort and restore me. Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me, Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.*

A blessed St. Patrick's Day  
and prayerful Lenten journey,  
Pastor Lois

## HOLY WEEK TO EASTER



### **Palm/Passion Sunday - Services of Holy Communion**

**March 23, 2024 at 5:00 pm**

**March 24, 2024 at 9:30 am**

The Saturday evening worship service will follow a traditional order with the blessing of palm branches. The Passion narrative will be incorporated throughout the worship liturgy during the Sunday



### **Holy Wednesday - Service of Holy Communion with the Rite of Healing**

**March 27, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

The sermon series on the Return of the Prodigal Son concludes.  
(Available via Live Stream.)



### **Maundy Thursday - Service of Holy Communion with the Stripping of the Altar**

**March 28, 2024**

**12:00 pm in Barkley Chapel**

**7:00 pm in the Sanctuary**

(Available via Live Stream)



### **Good Friday Tenebrae Service**

**March 29, 2024**

**7:00 pm in the Sanctuary**

(Available via Live Stream)



### **Easter Vigil - Service of Holy Communion**

**March 30, 2024**

**5:00 pm in Barkley Chapel**

Scripture readings of Israel's salvation story followed by the good news of Jesus' resurrection.



### **Easter Sunday Service of Holy Communion**

**March 31, 2024**

**9:30 am in the Sanctuary**

(Available via Live Stream)

*He is not here;*

*he has*

*Risen!*

*Luke 24:6*

## MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES OF EVENING PRAYER...CONTINUE

**Midweek Lenten Services of Evening Prayer - 7:00 PM**  
**February 21 & 28, March 6, 13 & 20**

**March 27 Service of Holy Communion**  
**with the Rite of Healing**  
**"The Prodigal Son"**

*In Person & Live Stream*

February 21	The Painting
February 28	The Younger Son
March 6	The Elder Son
March 13	The Father
March 20	Becoming the Father
March 27	Forgiveness & Healing



Henri Nouwen,, a Dutch born Catholic priest, professor and pastor, gained international renown as the author of thirty-nine books on the spiritual life. *The Return of the Prodigal Son* is by far his most powerful writing. His chance encounter with this painting led to a long spiritual adventure which is shared in this book.

Join Pastor Lois in a brief liturgy of Evening Prayer and messages that explore the different characters in this well-known parable, as portrayed by the artist Rembrandt in his painting, Return of the Prodigal Son. Let us reflect on the ways that this parable speaks to each of us as it challenges us to seek forgiveness and to grant forgiveness as our heavenly Father does for us with abundant love and boundless grace.

### **Calling voting members for the 2024 Assembly of the Lower Susquehanna Synod** **“For the Healing of the Nations: Christ’s Healing in a Broken World”**

**Friday evening, May 31, 2024 by Zoom**  
**Saturday, June 1, 2024, in person St. Matthew Lutheran Church**  
**839 W. Market Street, York 17401**  
**Day of Edification**  
**Saturday, May 18, 2024 by Zoom**

Registration:

\$175 – Early Bird Rate (Open 3/1 thru 3/31) • \$200 – Standard Rate (Open 4/1 thru 4/30)

Two voting members, preferably one male and one female are invited to attend the Synod Assembly as representatives of Grace.

For more information: [Synod Assembly - Lower Susquehanna Synod \(lss-elca.org\)](https://lss-elca.org)

**Join us for Worship!**

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

**[via Live Stream](#)**

**Sunday School  
Sundays at 10:45am  
September to May**

**This Month at Grace...**

The Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship for **March** is given by Madelyn Kase in loving memory of her husband, Ken Kase.

The Special Benevolence Offering for the **March is the Lutheran Camping Corporation.**

To contribute please list the dollar amount next to Special Offering Ministry and list *Lutheran Camping Corporation* under comments.

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 9 & 10, 2024  
Camp Sunday**

**Mike Youse, Preaching  
Executive Director Lutheran  
Camping Corporation**

**2024 Sponsorship Opportunities**

**[CLICK HERE](#)** to see available dates for 2024. 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](mailto: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.***



**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](mailto: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**



Don't forget to 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.



**Sunday School**

*Sundays 10:45 - 11:30am*

The classes are: Kindergarten - 2nd grade and 3rd grade - 5th grade. Both classes meet in the Sunday School Wing, except for the weeks that JYG is in the Youth Room.

You are welcome to bring a friend or invite your neighbor or extended family. Please note we are welcoming 5 year old preschoolers in the younger class.

The **Winter/Spring** Sunday School schedule is available [HERE](#).

**GYG & JYG Upcoming Events**

**March**

- 3 10:45am - 12:00pm JYG
- 10 10:45 - 11:30am Camp Sunday Event  
5:00pm GYG Night
- 17 GYG National Youth Gathering Meeting via Zoom
- 24 11:00am Bunny Potluck
- 29 8:00am - 1:00pm Beautify the Church



You can view the complete GYG schedule [HERE](#). You can view the complete JYG schedule [HERE](#).



**Churchyard Cleanup Day**

We need all hands on deck! On **Good Friday, March 29th** we will gather friends of all ages to come out and help beautify the church. We will go from **9am - 1pm**. Our tasks will include:

1. Mulching
2. Trimming hedges
3. Weeding
4. Edging
5. Leaf Removal
6. Gutter Cleanout and so much more!

A breakfast spread with juices and pastries for the morning. We will end with some pizza if you can stick around that long! Please come out and help make Easter POP at Grace!



LutheranHANDS will be holding a Service Retreat at Kirchenwald this Spring. This is a great event for all ages and families. There is an overnight option if you'd like! The service day is **April 20th!** A delicious dinner will be served that evening followed by a campfire. An outdoor contemporary worship service will happen the morning after! Stay tuned for more info!

An illustration for a 'Camp Sunday' event. It features a bright yellow sky with white clouds and green pine trees. In the foreground, there's a green field with a winding yellow path. Several orange tents are pitched. A group of children, including a boy playing a guitar, are walking along the path. A large brown circular graphic on the right contains the event details.

# CAMP SUNDAY

**MAR 10**  
10:45AM  
On the church lawn  
(weather permitting)

A morning of fun, games, songs, prayer and much more to learn about Lutheran Camping Corporation and their summer camps!



### Donations Requested

Donations requested for candy and any small item that can fit into a standard size plastic egg for the egg hunt at the Bunny Potluck.

A donation collection basket will be in the Library. The last day to donate is **March 17, 2024.**

Thank you,  
The Fellowship Ministry Committee

We hope you can join us on **Sunday, March 24 at 11:00am** in the Social Hall for our Annual Easter Bunny Potluck and Egg Hunt. The potluck lunch is open to all ages and there is a sign up in the parking lot hallway or you sign up [HERE](#). Ham & drinks provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Enjoy fellowship, crafts, a visit with the Easter Bunny and an egg hunt (bring basket to collect eggs!).

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL Sundays, 10:45 am—Conference Room

The Adult class continues a study of The Ten Commandments with a video series by Sister Joan Chittister. Sister Joan offers an honest and refreshing approach to the “Ten Commandments: The Laws of the Heart” unlike anything present today. She invites us to think deeply about the moral fibers of our society and 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
Feb 25	The Fifth Commandment: The Law of Life
March 3	The Sixth Commandment: The Law of Commitment
March 10	The Seventh & Eighth Commandments: The Laws of Sharing & Speech
March 17	The Ninth & Tenth Commandments: The Law of Self-Control & Assurance
March 24	Epilogue: The Two Laws of Love



### “Breathing the Word” Bible Study Tuesdays, 1:00 pm - Library

The study of Jesus’ “The Sermon on the Mount” continues. This study 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.

The schedule has been adjusted to reflect cancelled gatherings due to inclement weather.

Upon completion of the study by A.J. Levine, we will embark on a study and discussion of selected ELCA social statements.

Join your siblings in Christ for a time of study, discussion and fellowship.

Date	Topic	Date	Topic
Feb 20	Our Father	March 19	ELCA Social Statement
Feb 27	Finding Your Treasure	March 26	ELCA Social Statement
March 5	Living into the Kingdom	April 2	Easter break
March 12	ELCA Social Statement		



### **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...***

Alan Gabel, Joan Harman, Pen Hoover, Russ Weber, Debbie Aldridge, Pete Psychogis, Paul & Linda Glance, Dr. Robert Little, Kelly Ackley, Al Hughes, Shirley Davis, Dale Swenson, Bob, Shana Funk, and Dean Jury.

### ***We hold in ongoing prayer...***

Dameian Duwe, Tom Hall, Mike Hillegas, Susie Hopper, Joyce Thomas (Ohio) & son, David, Lynn Royal, Bonnie Peechatka, Marcie, Luke & Wesley Beam, Eric Rome, Dana Moore, John McNichol, Kay King, Justin Minnich, Michelle Hillegas, Darlene M., Eileen McCann, and Mike Lutz.

### ***We also hold our homebound in prayer:***

Betty Bennett, Gladys Cline, Sue Gasswint, Yvonne Gettys, Janice Hench, Frank Hills, Sis Hoffman, Shirley Hughes, Howard Lauver, Janice Light. 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 loud 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

*No one can believe how powerful prayer is and what it can effect, except those who have learned it by experience. Whenever I have prayed earnestly, I have been heard and have obtained more than I prayed for. God sometimes delays, but He always comes.” – Martin Luther*





FINANCE &  
STEWARDSHIP

## WE ARE SO EXCITED AND APPRECIATIVE!

The Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team would like to extend a huge Thank You to the Grace Congregation for your wonderful response to our Second Annual Pledge Appeal.

In 2023 we received 53 pledges totaling \$157,400 of which 95% was satisfied.

So far for 2024 we received 75 pledges totaling \$220,060. This represents a 41% increase in the number of pledges presented and a 40% increase in dollars pledged. Way to go Members!!

We as a congregation approved our 2024 budget of \$348,495. Two-thirds of that amount has been pledged so far... It is never too late for anyone to put in their pledge card. We have pledge cards available for anyone who misplaced their card or forgot to get in on the excitement of reaching higher for our budget goals.

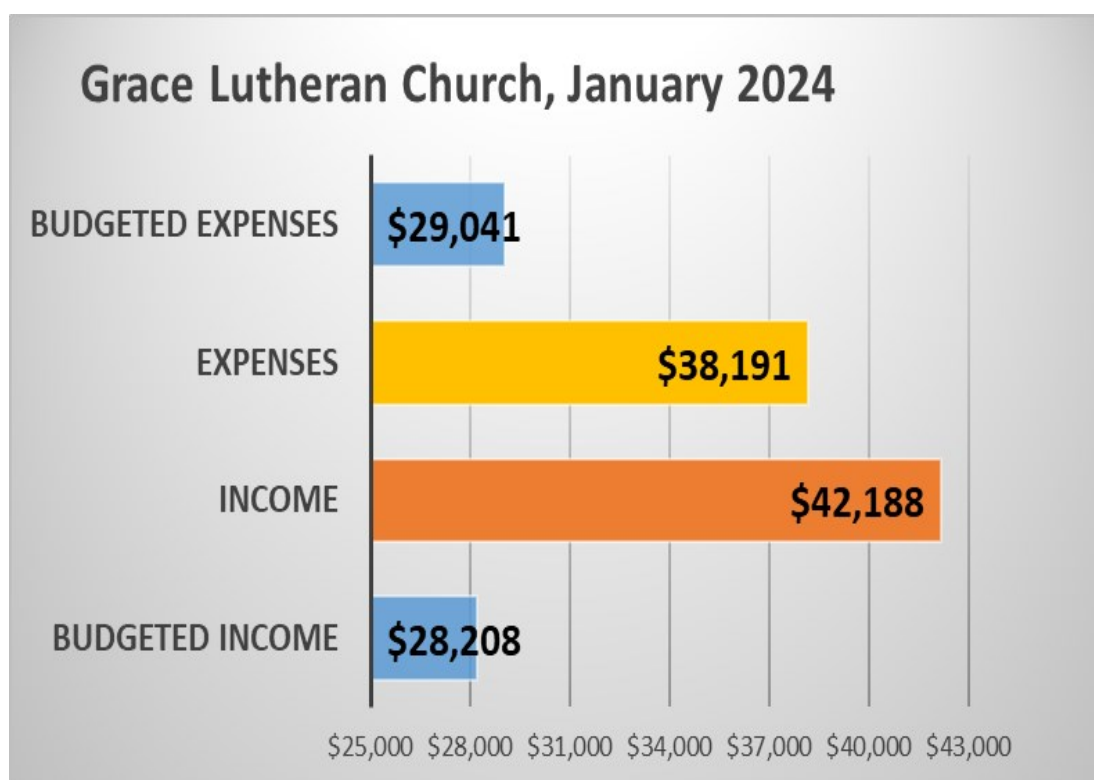
We can only grow from here!

Judi Fenicle and The Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team

Members and Friends of Grace,

Thank you to everyone who helped pass our 2024 budget at the annual fiscal meeting in January. The year started with a strong amount of income exceeding our expenses, which is similar to last year's pattern. If plowable snowfall could just stay away from us, we'd be in perfect shape!

Susan Dickinson, Treasurer



*From the Church Council*



### Council Actions February 2024

- ◆ Council will be looking for members of the congregation to represent Grace at the 2024 Synod Assembly May 31-June 1, 2024.
- ◆ Council will also be looking for members of the congregation to serve on church council beginning June, 2024.
- ◆ Council voted to sell the refrigerator and tractor at Kentland, the proceeds of which will go to the Grace Assets Fund
- ◆ Council voted to sell unwanted items currently on and under the stage, the proceeds of which will go to the Organ Fund.



Greetings Grace,

As we journey through the Lenten season, music plays an important role in our reflections and spiritual preparations. The solemn melodies and hymns echo the themes of repentance and contemplation, guiding us through a period of reflection and renewal. As Easter approaches, our music shifts in tone, resonating with the joy and celebration of Christ's resurrection. With triumphant hymns and anthems, we lift our voices in

praise, proclaiming the victory of light over darkness and hope over despair. Through the music of this season, we are reminded of the transformative power of faith and the eternal promise of redemption. We hope the hymns and music selections enhance your worship experience as we journey through this season. Allow the music to remind your heart of the fullness of God's grace and love.

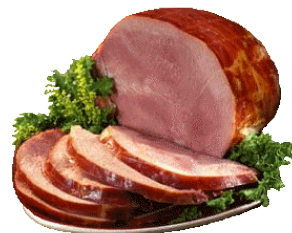
As always, if you, or someone you know is interested in being a part of Grace's music ensembles, please feel free join us or reach out to [k.e.hartman11@gmail.com](mailto:k.e.hartman11@gmail.com). All are welcome!

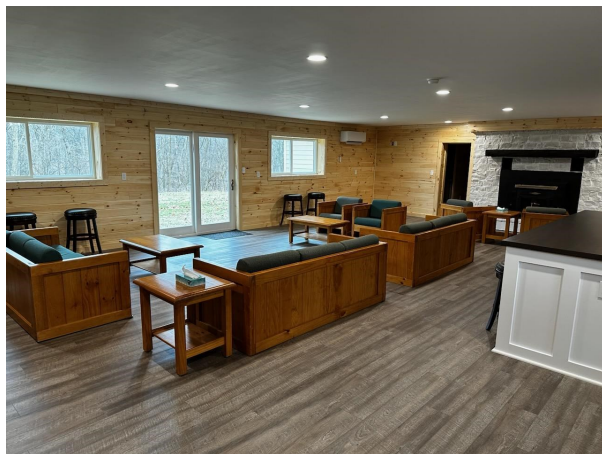
Blessings,  
Kris and Emily Hartman



### Donations of Ham Needed for The Giving Pantry

The Giving Pantry is in desperate need of ham donations for their Easter dinner. All donations of hams must be received **by Palm Sunday, March 24th**. Donations can be dropped off at the church office Monday - Thursday 8am - 12 noon or Wednesdays, 2 - 5pm in The Giving Pantry. Other dates can be arranged with Jackie Behney at 717-877-9840.





### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Sunday, April 21  
2-4pm**

Join us at Kentland for refreshments and  
tour the renovated space.

3:30pm Dedication Service

Kentland Retreat Center  
1022 East Winding Hill Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA

The Community Meal  
2nd & 4th Wednesday each month  
from 5:30 - 6:30pm  
in the Social Hall.

**March 13  
&  
March 27**

More information at  
[https://www.gracecamphill.org/  
service](https://www.gracecamphill.org/service)

*The Community Meal at Grace*



2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month

## Lenten thoughts about wealth

*Jesus taught, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." -Luke 12:15 (NIV)*

For centuries, Christians have observed the season of Lent by taking on new spiritual practices (such as special prayer or bible reading) or abstaining from things that are enjoyable or extravagant (such as tobacco, chocolate or alcohol).

Lenten disciplines assist us in looking inward, seeing ourselves for who we really are, and with God's help, identifying things that keep us from drawing closer to God. With these awarenesses, and with God's help, we can then do something about them.

It's only fitting that Christians look at their relationship with wealth. Jesus had no problem with wealth, per se, but he repeatedly warns that wealth can distort our values and put a wedge between us and God. Or, worse, that money can supplant God as ruler in our hearts.

For those of us who are comfortable in our incomes and possessions, Lent invites us to look at our relationship with wealth. Here are some ideas for thought and prayer:

Jesus says, "Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." How is that different from the relentless message our consumer culture gives us? In what, then, would Jesus say our life consists? In what does your life consist?

For Lent, keep a journal of everything you buy. At the end of Lent, analyze what your purchases say about your values, identity, and relationship with wealth.

For Lent, buy only things you *need*, and NOT things you merely *want*. What do you learn in the process.

For Lent, double your regular giving to charity. Or simply give to the point where it is a sacrifice.

If you dare, try tithing – giving 10 percent of your income to God's work. What do you learn about yourself?

May this Lent be a time when you draw close to the Lord your God.

–*Rob Blezard*

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- 3/2 Betty Bennett  
Thomas Boyer (Claudia)
- 3/3 Susan Dickinson  
Sandra Robison
- 3/4 Randy Hamme  
Ron Kauffman
- 3/6 James Lehman  
Todd Snyder
- 3/8 Matthew Easton
- 3/9 Tyler Artz
- 3/10 Robert Budzinski  
James Price
- 3/11 Logan Walker
- 3/12 Isaac Vogelsong
- 3/14 Joyce Clark
- 3/15 Cyle Helman
- 3/16 Mark Barton  
Tracy Evans  
Joyce Thomas (Ohio)
- 3/18 Marlene Ulrich

- 3/19 Lauren Campbell  
Sophie Campbell  
Eliza Chesky  
Bobbi Jean Stilo  
Charles Thomas, Jr.
- 3/21 Gail Feldman
- 3/22 Don Barlup  
Kathy Lore
- 3/23 Alexander McInnes  
Harvey "Roy" White
- 3/24 Byron Schreck
- 3/26 Susan Edwards
- 3/27 Linda Biesecker
- 3/28 Austin Snavely
- 3/29 Jeffrey Peiffer
- 3/30 Linda Ringer
- 3/31 Patty Rohde  
Sharon Swank  
Laurie Zimmerman

### Let's Celebrate Some Monumental Birthdays!

**Betty Bennett turns 101 years old on March 2.** Take a moment to wish her a happy birthday with a telephone call or mail a card to:

Betty Bennett  
1447 Hillcrest Court  
Apt. 304  
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Let her know you are thinking of her on this very special occasions.

### 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.

If paying with cash please have exact change. Checks should be made to GELC.



### Grace's Inclement Weather Policy

In the event of inclement weather, we post closings or delayed openings on the church phone 717-737-0439 x14, on the website, and most will, also, appear on CBS 21 and ABC 27 as well.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Kids Discover: Tracks & Scat**

**March 2 | 1:30 - 3:00pm | \$5 per child, chaperone Free | Wildwood Park - 100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg**

Wild animals are all around us, but we do not always get to see them. But, they sometimes leave clues to help us learn where go as they travel about Wildwood. Join a Naturalist to discover how to identify wildlife from tracks and scat. Explore walking patterns and basic tips in track ID and investigate the shape and contents of different animal's scat. This program will be indoors and outdoors and include a short trek to search for signs of wildlife, especially scat and tracks. Please dress for the weather. Snow on the ground is helpful but not necessary. Registrants must be accompanied by a chaperone for the duration of the program. A maximum of one chaperone per child is permitted. Space is limited.

### **Ice & Fire Festival**

**March 2 | 11 am - 7pm | Free Admission | Throughout City of Harrisburg**

This free event will feature 50+ large and small ice sculptures, an ice slide, fire dancers, live ice carving, fire pits and s'mores, an artist market, performances by local school and community groups, kids activities, food trucks, vendors, a cocktail/coffee/cocoa crawl and more. Sculptures will be illuminated starting at 5:30pm.

### **Maple Sugar Festival**

**March 3 | 12 - 4pm | Free Admission | Fort Hunter Mansion & Park**

Visitors can try tapping a tree, see maple syrup and candy making and learn about different types of maple syrup. There are many children's activities and also delicious PA maple products are for sale. For more information go to <https://forhunter.org/event/maple-sugar-festival/>

### **Harrisburg St. Patrick's Day Parade**

**March 16 | 2pm | Downtown Harrisburg**

Featuring Irish dance groups, pipe & drum bands, festive floats, adorable animals, famous characters, cool cars, community groups, marching bands, motorcycles, tractors, and more, it's sure to be an exciting day in downtown Harrisburg.

**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](mailto:deppengelc@gmail.com)

## **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

1610 Carlisle Road  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
717-737-0439  
[gelc@comcast.net](mailto:gelc@comcast.net)

Visit us on Facebook at Grace Lutheran Church, Twitter @grace\_elca or on the web at:  
[www.gracecamphill.org](http://www.gracecamphill.org)