

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Camp Hill, PA



Celebrating 75 Years

1947 – 2022

“Grateful for God’s Grace”

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This anniversary year holds multiple layers of transitions for you, the faithful people of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church – and it is my privilege to join you in this commemorative year. What began as a year to continue easing out of the Covid Pandemic, looking forward to a grand celebration in March, quickly spiraled into announcements of leadership change.

“Grateful for God’s grace,” we are richly blessed with new musicians, Emily and Kristopher Hartman, whose extraordinary musical gifts are offered with grace and love to lead us in worship, energizing our spirits to give praise and glory to our Triune God.

Thanks be to God for the staff “constants” at Grace who serve with care and grace: the Rev. Evan Houck, Coordinator of Pastoral Care, Jesse Woodrow, Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministry, and office staff Chris Jury and Diane Deppen. And we are “grateful for God’s grace” in the varied gifts of our lay leaders who serve with wisdom, understanding and profound faith in God and in you, the body of Christ. Finally, I am “grateful for God’s grace” which has brought us together to walk through this time of transition and to prepare for the call of a permanent pastor.

The memories captured in this anniversary booklet are reminders of God’s grace in a golden past – one to be treasured, in a present ripe with possibility, and in a future that is filled with energy, hope and trust in the grace of God. As we bring this year of celebration to a close with this booklet, let us not forget to tend to our souls – individually and collectively. Our souls are the source of Divine calling and thus, require tending and nurturing.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church is a community of faith that is fed and nourished in Word and Sacrament, that feeds the hungry, and that serves God’s children with

grace-filled love and mercy. As we turn our sights to the future, let us give thanks for the depth and breadth of God's grace that formed and shaped this congregation by the power of the Holy Spirit and for the example of Jesus, who strengthens us to do all things through him, with confidence and hope (Philippians 4:13).

May this time of transition be filled with prayer, renewal, and love for it is by the grace of God that we are given the courage to face the future, to go forth into ventures unknown, knowing that God's love and grace are guiding us, for the glory and honor of God's holy name.

In Christ's service,

The Rev. Lois Van Orden

Interim Pastor



This year we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of Grace Lutheran Church in Camp Hill, PA. In 1947, 144 members of the Highland neighborhood came together to form a Lutheran congregation that has since grown to include several surrounding communities. The walls of Grace have watched many generations of families grow up and set out to help those in need, locally and around the world.

The theme for this anniversary celebration is **Grateful for God's Grace**. As a church family, we are grateful for this church community and the everlasting love God gives us to fulfill our mission: to support and serve others.

On Sunday, March 20, 2022, we celebrated this occasion at the 9:30 AM worship service as we welcomed former Grace Pastor, Rev. Russell Mueller who offered the day's sermon. After the service, we held a luncheon at 10:30 AM in the Social Hall.

At the luncheon, we recognized Pastor Mueller, the current and past council presidents, descendants of charter members, and family members who have attended Grace for several generations. We also thanked outgoing Pastor Cover for her 9 years of service and Bonnie Barton, organist and Carolyn Houck, music director, on their retirement.

The Church Council asked the Fellowship & Arts Committee to lead the anniversary celebration efforts.

**Fellowship & Arts
Committee Members:**

Hope Pankake

Julie Flook

Melissa Meador

Garri Ann Hearn

Christin Heidingsfelder

**Additional individuals
who made the
celebration possible:**

Rev. Virginia Cover

Rev. Evan Houck

Rev. Lois Van Orden

Rev. Susan Scott

Rev. Russell Mueller

Jesse Woodrow & Youth
Group

Susan Ryder

Don Barlup

Audrey Egley & kitchen
volunteers

Diane Deppen

Chris Jury

Alan Gabel

*Enjoy this booklet, which we hope will bring you wonderful
memories of Grace's past!*

A Timeline from 1947 to 2022

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Camp Hill, PA

1945 – Rev. Howard Bink of Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill was interested in starting a church in the forming neighborhood of Highland Park. Through a census conducted by the United Churches of Greater Harrisburg, it was learned that the majority of those living in Highland Park identified as Lutherans so the prospect of building a new Lutheran church was born.

1945 through 1947 - Earl N. Hocker, the first mailman of Highland Park, who was a member of Trinity Lutheran, started a mission Sunday School project in the neighborhood. Initially the classes were held in the homes of parents and then at 1701 Chatham Road, which was rented by the Lutheran Board of Synodical Missions. The same Board of Missions sent Rev. Dr. W.W. Barkley to mentor the creation of what would later be Grace.

March 23, 1947 – The families that Rev. Barkley organized had their first Sunday morning service at the Gorgas Community Center, which was attached to the Lower Allen Township Fire Hall on Old Gettysburg Road.

March 30, 1947 – It was during this Palm Sunday service at Gorgas Community Center when a total of 144 individual were officially received to create a new church – the charter members – and the books were kept open a week longer, to include 25 more people for a total of 169 people.

March 31, 1947 - The first congregational meeting was held by the members to elect 9 council members and carry out other official business necessary, including naming the church Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

June 1, 1947 - Rev. Barkley was installed as Pastor and the church was taken into the Synod.

Late 1947 – The Woman’s Guild was formed and became the first working auxiliary in the history of Grace.

1947 through present – A Boy Scout troop started holding meetings at Gorgas Community Center and later moved to the Grace social hall.

1948 – 3 lots along Carlisle Road were purchased for the future building of a church. A small building close to the corner of Chelsea and Carlisle Roads that came with the purchase of the lots, housed Sunday Classes for preschool and kindergarten children.

March 1949 – C. Arthur Neal, not yet ordained, accepted the call to be the 2nd Pastor of Grace.

April 24, 1949 – Groundbreaking ceremony for the first church (today known as the Barkley Chapel).

November 13, 1949 – The first church building was dedicated (the Barkley Chapel).

1949 – The first voice choir was organized called the Young People’s Choir. Soon after, three choirs were established: Chancel, Teen & Junior.

March 23, 1950 – The Barkley Chapel caught on fire. Insurance was used to fully restore the structure.

Early 1950s – The Youth Fellowship began a Strawberry Festival which ran until 2007. The Nut Fry fundraiser also began around this time and continued until 2016.

November 1955 – Ground was broken to build the new, larger church structure – our sanctuary today. This was possible after years of planning and fundraising, including a trip to New York City by leaders of Grace to meet with The Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America to ask for financing assistance, which they received.

May 27, 1956 – The cornerstone of the new church was laid.

November 4, 1956 – The original church was named The Barkley Chapel.

January 20, 1957 – The Dedication Service was held for the new church.

Early 1960s – Kentland was gifted to Grace by Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Kent. Kentland was a very active place for many events including softball and youth gatherings.

1960 – Grace recognized the need for a local kindergarten program so one was created and held at the church. This lasted until 1966 when the school district began offering kindergarten, at which time Grace started offering a preschool program.

1963 – The home adjacent to the chapel was purchased as the Parsonage and 1701 Chatham Road was sold.

1964 – The first 7 Church Boards were formed: Parish Education, Stewardship, Social Ministry, Church Property & Maintenance, World Mission, Parish Advance, and Worship.

October 1966 – The first associate Pastor was called, Rev. Ray Jones.

1967 – Another property, beside the Parsonage, was bought and known as the Parish House, which was used for Sunday School classes. There were 600 enrolled Sunday School students, with about 400 attending each Sunday. Today this property is the main church parking lot

1970s – 2010s – Grace held Vacation Bible School over the summers.

1974 – Two electric organs were purchased, one for the sanctuary and one for the chapel. These are the same organs used today.

January 1977 – The dedication of the handbell choir took place during a worship service.

1977, 1979 & 1985 - The Passion Play was presented by members of the congregation and community.

1978 – 1997 – Performers, musicians and singers from Grace came together to create the Encore group, who performed musicals for the congregation and community.

January 1977 – Rev. Ronald Reed joined Grace as Associate Pastor, after Rev. Jones' resignation.

1984 – This year was the completion of a renovation which created the Neal Library, the parking lot, the hallway to the parking lot, the parsonage converted to the offices, closing in the door at Chelsea and turning what had been the Nursery School area into the current Youth Room. The elevator was added at this time too.

1986 – Pastor Reed resigned to answer a senior pastor call at another church. Rev. Tim Roser began as Interim Pastor until 1989.

1987 – Pastor Neal retired after 39 years of service at Grace. George Ferrell, Grace's first full time organist, also retired after 40 years of service.

1988- Dr. Howard McCarney began his role as the Visitation Pastor.

1989 – Rev. Russell Mueller accepted the call to be Grace's Pastor.

Early '90s – Two houses were bought on Letchworth Road for pastoral housing and later sold in the early 2000s.

1992 – 1995 – Rev. George Minick served as Associate Pastor.

1995 – David Sonnenberg came to Grace at the end of his time in seminary and in 1996 was called to join as associate pastor.

1998 – Grace was gifted a property on Carlisle Road that became our secondary parking lot.

2001 – Both Pastor Mueller and Pastor Sonnenberg left Grace for their next call.

2002 – Grace purchased the house beside the main parking lot, 1604 Carlisle Road.

2001 – 2007 – Rev. Linda Hostetter served as Interim Pastor for one year until in 2002, Rev. B. Penrose Hoover accepted the call to be Pastor through 2007. During this time Rev. Joel Petruschke joined Grace as Associate Pastor ('03-'08).

2008 – 2012 – Rev. Keith Fair was Interim Pastor from 2008-2010, followed by a call to Rev. Matthew Pensinger who served as Pastor from 2010-2012. Charlie Roberts also joined Grace staff at this time as Youth Director.

2011 – This year Rev. Dr. McCarney retired, and Rev. Evan Houck was called to Grace as the Associate Pastor.

2012 - Interim Pastor Rev. George Detweiler served Grace for one year.

2013 – Rev. Virginia Cover was called and served as Pastor until her resignation in May 2022. Also, this year, Jesse Woodrow joined Grace staff as the Youth and Family Ministries Director.

2013 – The weekly Community Meal began. Grace members prepare and serve dinner to congregation members and community members as an opportunity to share a hot meal and fellowship.

2017 – Deacon Molly Haggerty joined the Grace staff as a seminary student intern until 2019.

2018 – The Giving Pantry, an independent nonprofit, was established by member Garri Ann Hearn and operates at the church building. Community members can come for household supplies and food every Wednesday at the church. This organization was previously known as Market Square Friends (est. 2016), which also assisted the unhoused community in Harrisburg.

2018 – 2020 – The house at 1604 Carlisle Road was used for housing those in need through Market Square Friends and Family Promise.

2015 – Grace began providing a Live Stream of the Sunday morning worship service.

2015-2019 – The #Connect worship service was held, featuring the Abundant Grace Band.

January 27, 2019 – The newly renovated church kitchen was dedicated, following a two-year capital campaign.

March 2020 – The Covid-19 Pandemic led to shutting down in-person worship & activities for about 10 months. During this time, worship leaders continued to hold services which were aired via live stream on the church website.

2021 – 2022 – Vicar Susan Scott joined Grace as a seminary student intern.

March 20, 2022 – Grace held a celebration for the 75th Anniversary which included guest speaker former Grace Pastor, the Rev. Russell Mueller, recognition of charter member families and other families dedicated to Grace over the decades, and a luncheon.

June 2022 – Interim Pastor Rev. Lois Van Orden came to Grace to serve as Senior Pastor, while the call committee works to call a new permanent Senior Pastor.

June 2022 –Kristopher Hartman joined the staff of Grace as the Music Director. Emily Hartman joined the staff as the church organist.

Fall 2022 – After year-long work by the Strategic Planning Committee, the following goals have been established to carry out over the next few years: Offer diverse opportunities for engagement in congregational and community life across generations, help one another come together to create unity in Christ that stretches across varying viewpoints, create a plan for Church properties, and offer varied worship opportunities.

The Naming of the Church

How did Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church receive its name? Seventy odd years ago, at a meeting to decide this very important item, Rev. William W. Barkley, our founding minister, said,

“Grace is the most beautiful word in the English language.”

And so it came to be. A beautiful word to him became a legacy to all of us. - S.E.M



Charter Members

Listed below are the 169 charter members – 144 were confirmed on Sunday, March 30, 1947, and an additional 25 members were confirmed that year during the time the charter remained open.

Mrs. Charles E. Appleby, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Russell Crawford
Mr. & Mrs. E. Briner Ashway, Jr.	Mr. Robert Crawford
Mr. & Mrs. James Bachman	Mr. & Mrs. Russell E. DeWitt
Dr. & Mrs. William Barkley	Miss Janet M. Dicks
Mr. Donald Barkley	Mr. & Mrs. Rexford L. Eaton
Dr. William Barkley, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Ervin
Mr. & Mrs. Christian Balsbaugh	Mrs. Milan W. Fitch
Miss Bethine Balsbaugh	Miss Dolores Fitch
Miss Carolyn Balsbaugh	Mr. & Mrs. Roy R. Fortney
Mr. & Mrs. W. Richard Barlup	Mr. & Mrs. James T. Frew
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Baublitz	Mrs. Lena Friedrichs
Miss Patricia Baublitz	Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Funk
Mr. & Mrs. George Beane	Miss Louise Funk
Miss Ila Beane	Miss June Funk
Mr. & Mrs. O. R. Beaver	Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Galley
Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Bodwell	Mrs. Herbert H. Garverich
Mr. & Mrs. William Brubaker	Mrs. Ray M. Garverich
Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Clapper	Mr. Donald Gaverich
Miss Norma Jean Clapper	Miss Jean Gaverich
Mrs. James A. Craig, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. Louis T. Gibbs
	Mr. & Mrs. James E. Gully

Mr. Robert Gully	Mr. & Mrs. George A. Kessler, Jr.
Mrs. Sara Jane Haage	Mrs. Ione Keys
Mr. & Mrs. J. Andrew Haas	Mr. & Mrs. Richard M. Kohlhaas
Mr. & Mrs. G. Edward Hake	Mr. & Mrs. Charles G. Lamm
Mr. & Mrs. Marion F. Hall	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore S. Marinitz
Mr. & Mrs. Max A. Hall	Miss Dawn Ann Marinitz
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob B. Hanlen	Mr. & Mrs. D. L. Mumper
Mr. Jacob W. Hanlen	Mr. David J. Mumper
Mr. & Mrs. Jacob B. Harder	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce E. Myers
Mr. Jacob Harder, Jr.	Mr. & Mrs. John Nagle, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas J. Harter	Mr. & Mrs. Boyd W. Nesbit
Mr. & Mrs. Fred V. Henry	Mr. & Mrs. Orlando F. Nicholson
Mr. & Mrs. John H. Hoffman	Mr. & Mrs. Norman P. Ninneman
Mr. Robert Hoffman	Miss Georgia Ninneman
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Hunter	Mr. & Mrs. George W. Olewine
Mr. & Mrs. H. Kenneth Hunter	Mr. & Mrs. William R. Over
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Hohenshilt	Mr. & Mrs. Harry A. Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Jackson	Mr. & Mrs. Harold P. Rabuck
Mr. Clement L. Johnson	Mr. & Mrs. Donald P. Raffensperger
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Johnson	Mr. & Mrs. Blaine W. Rock
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Julian	Mr. John M. Roth
Mrs. Carrie Kahler	
Miss Evelyn N. Kahler	
Mr. & Mrs. Harry E. Keefer	
Mr. Harry E. Keefer, Jr.	

Mr. & Mrs. David R. Spence

Mr. & Mrs. Murray W.
Sperling, Sr.

Mr. Murray W. Sperling, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. James A. Stoner

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Stump

Miss Marlene Stump

Mr. & Mrs. John Telencio

Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Telford

Mr. & Mrs. James A. Titzel

Mr. James B. Titzel

Mr. John T. Titzel

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Thornton

Mrs. David Tracy

Mr. & Mrs. Jefferson C.
Umbenhaur

Mr. & Mrs. John R. Weaver

Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Wolpert

Mr. & Mrs. Albert J. Youndt

Grace Council Presidents Through the Years

George W. Olewine 1947-50	Murray Sperling, Jr. 1973-74
Andrew G. Graf 1951	J. Douglass Berry 1975-76
R. Gould Smith 1952	Brian Small 1977
Kenneth Reed 1953	Jane Peters 1978-79
Charles Thomas 1954	John Shuey 1980
Donald Rimmer 1955	Donald Allan 1981
Leonard Sorensen 1956	Ron Zeigler 1982
Robert Huber 1957	Tom Johnson 1983
Richard Harper 1958	Robert Egley 1984
Robert Smith 1959	Harry Messick 1985-86
James Grossman 1960	Joyce Allan 1987
Dr. Kenneth Taylor 1961	Pat Lantz 1988
Dr. Howard Stine 1962	Ron Ryerson 1989
Craig Williamson 1963	Don Barlup 1990-91
Robert Rhodes 1964	Ted Griffith 1993
Andrew Graf 1965	Bill Robison 1994-95
John Gross, Jr. 1966	Beverly Horn 1996-97
Ralph Peters 1967	Don Schell 1998
Richard Barlup 1968	Don Barlup 1999
Ronald Crimm 1969	Randy Kaufmann 2000-01
Ray Hagenbuch 1970	George Osswald 2002
Jacqueline Mensching 1971	Norma Krouse 2003
Donald Lenker, Jr. 1972	Bob Egley 2004-05

Bob Hillegas 2006

Bryan Weber 2014

Bob Bozart 2007

Gene Robison 2015

Jon Whittle 2008-09

Terry Snyder 2016

Bill Robison 2010

Matt Hearn 2017

John Ozimok 2011

Tom Blackburn 2018-19

Debra Hoover 2012

Susan Ryder 2020-21

Linda Lippert 2013

Tom Blackburn 2022

Gift Giving to Celebrate the Anniversary

To celebrate this Anniversary, we collected a special offering to benefit the Organ Fund. Both organs in the Sanctuary and the Chapel are showing signs of irreparable problems so we've created a fund that's in place when the organs need replaced. These electric organs are 48 years old.

**At the time of printing this booklet,
\$6,797.75 has been collected for the Organ Fund
in 2022 in honor of Grace's 75th Anniversary!**

*"Music is one of the fairest and
most glorious gifts of God."*

-Martin Luther



LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

WHERE THE HUNGRY ARE FED AS WE HAVE BEEN FED BY CHRIST.

The Rev. James S. Dunlop
Bishop

jdunlop@lss-elca.org

January 20, 2022
Time after Epiphany

Grace Lutheran Church
1610 Carlisle Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Dear Partners in Christ,

During the year 2022, Grace Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, will be celebrating its 75th anniversary. What a wonderful milestone this is in your life together as a congregation. I and all partners in Christ in our Lower Susquehanna Synod join with you in joy and celebration as we together give thanks to God for the rich heritage and sure promise that God has given to you as a family of faith.

This significant anniversary provides you an opportunity to reflect on your long history and to give thanks to God for the many faithful believers, both lay leaders and rostered ministers, whom God used to build up this congregation, who, fed and strengthened by God's Word and Holy Sacraments, witnessed and served God and God's people and who laid the foundation on which this congregation was built and was sustained through these many years. It provides you an opportunity to remember and celebrate the important public events and happenings that shaped this congregation into the body of Christ that it is today and also the more personal events, like baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and funerals, through which God has formed the lives of individual believers.

Such a significant anniversary also provides an opportunity for your congregation to look to the future and to see where God may be leading you. Remembrance of the past blessings that God has provided and an awareness of your reliance on God's grace and goodness for your very presence and purpose lead to renewal and new life. They lead to new understandings and redefinition of the mission to which God is calling you and to an outward refocusing on your community and the people that God is calling you to serve with the good news of the Gospel.

It is my prayer for you that this anniversary year will be a time of joyous thanksgiving and a time for renewal and growth for your entire congregation. Happy anniversary.

Yours in Christ,

† James S. Dunlop, bishop

Memories of Grace

Thank you to Diane Deppen for collecting these memories and sharing them in Grace News throughout 2022.

Our Church's history is well-documented and since the historical files are unavailable at this time, due to the pandemic, I have chosen to provide you with some personal memories having spent my entire 73 years as a member of Grace, growing up, growing out, and growing older.

Perhaps a little background is in order. My late parents W. Richard (Dick) and Elizabeth C. (Libby) Barlup were among Grace's charter members, having built the third or fourth house on Letchworth Rd in Highland Park in 1939 for the total sum of \$3,995.00. My father taught my mother how to drive in the vacant fields surrounding the house.

I was baptized by Dr. W. W. Barkley in 1947, confirmed and married to my late wife Carol by Pastor C. Arthur Neal, who also baptized our three children, and attended his retirement party in 1987. My late younger brother Ron was baptized, confirmed, and married to his first wife by Pastor Neal.

I served 4 years as Council President, 4 years as Treasurer, and chaired the 70th Anniversary Celebration where we honored our remaining charter members.

Does all this make me an expert? Certainly not! There are still a precious few who have been members longer than I and probably have a better memory. I invite them to share their memories also.

My first real recollection of growing up at Grace, is attending Sunday school in the construction and sales office where the main Church is now located. This building, I believe, was N. P. Ninneman's office while he was the developer of Highland Park. It was small and we filled it to

capacity. The older children were gathered in the basement of Barkley Chapel, which was divided by moveable curtains for the different classes. The curtain rods were still in place until the recent renovation of the choir room. At one end was a small stage and the furnace room was also the kitchen.

As membership increased, the congregation soon outgrew the small church. I remember my mother was instrumental in frying peanuts to raise money to build the new Church. Her notes on how this was done are still in one of the filing cabinets.

My next memory leads me to the new Church and singing in the Junior Choir. Ruth Berry was the choir director. My mother babysat Ruth and Doug's two children while my brother and I attended choir practice. I eventually ended up in the teenage choir where Ruth Ferrell cultivated my lack of vocal talent.

-Don Barlup

June 21-24, 1972, Hurricane Agnes:

Grace Lutheran Bible School was ended abruptly on Thursday that week when it was discovered that there was a good foot of water in the church basement. By Sunday the floors were dry, but all Bible School projects that were on the floor were ruined.

At this time, the choir room was the small closet like room between the steps to the stage and the stairs from the basement to the Chelsea Road entrance. There were file cabinets containing choir music and all the choir gowns were hung there. Choir practice was held in the choir loft or a Sunday School room by the sanctuary.

Our organist and choir director, George and Ruth Ferrell, lived in Highland Park and had water to the top of their basement. Pastor Neal had water to the top step of the basement in the parsonage next to the church.

After church, several of us went to see what damage was done in the choir room. The bottom two drawers of the file cabinets were holding water and the choir gowns were wet from the bottoms to the tops. The two bottom drawers of three cabinets were removed and tilted to drain excess water. They were carried up and placed in our station wagon. The gowns were carried on hangers and added to the pile in the car.

When we arrived home the gowns were hung by hangers on the clothes lines in the beautiful sun. At the time our choir gowns were two piece black and white. It looked as if a Monastery had moved into our home. When they dried, they were moved to an extra bed covered with plastic. I washed several a day and returned to the choir room after it was cleaned. The file drawers were taken to our basement and picnic table benches were placed at opposite ends of the room. Many lines of binder twine were stretched between them. We would pick up a folder of music and tilt and drain water. Each piece of music was opened to the middle and hung on the line. This was done with every piece of music. When dry, they were placed in clean file folders, labeled and placed in dry, clean file drawers. This was repeated many times. That music was used for many more years. Carolyn Bair and I worked many times with 2 two-year old's and 2 five-year old's playing nearby.

John and I had always wished we had taken a picture of this process because it is part of Grace's history. None of us ever thought of it. Today with cameras in cell phones, it would have been done.

John and I were fortunate because we lived on a hill and had a well. Many of our friends from church were badly affected by Agnes and were without water even if they were not flooded.

-Helen Titzel

I am grateful to the church community at Grace Lutheran from the several weekends spent to become a new member with Pastor Neal many moons ago, to then being married in the church by Pastor Ron. I am grateful for my time working closely with Pastor Dave and the youth and going on youth trips and gatherings and watching the young folks grow in their faith. I am grateful for my time working with Pastor Mueller who convinced me to become a council member and working closely with Synod when we desperately needed to call a Pastor. This led to getting Pastor Hoover to accept a call for the church and then being in on council with awesome and dedicated church members (you know who you are) sharing their time and gifts. I am grateful for leading adult Sunday school and learning from those who participated from the church and later becoming council president.

It has truly been a gift from God and an honor to participate and serve in the capacities that I did and develop the many friendships that came out of that participation with my Church Family. Many memories and gifts of Grace from God that I will forever be thankful. Here's to another 75 years! God Bless!

-George Osswald

Over the past few months especially, I have been reflecting a lot about my time here at Grace. This August will mark my ten-year milestone, and 18 overall years of

leading youth ministry. I can now officially say that I've been leading youth for more than half of my life!

I am extremely grateful for these past ten years. There have been so many changes around us in terms of community, our vision/focus/purpose, and of course with our staff. Diane has asked me to write this article about some of my memories here at Grace, and after 10 years I have SO MANY! I could have chosen to write about our youth that have grown up to have their own children, that have gone to college and now have their "big boy" and "big girl" jobs, or I could write about those that have become leaders within or started their own faith related non - profits, BUT I would be remiss not to mention the number one reason why we have seen these results, and my favorite part of Grace - the commitment from the whole congregation.

From the day I started at Grace, we had committed families to ensure the success of this ministry. Parents have stepped up to lead as registrars, meal coordinators, chaperones, hosts within their own homes, and aided in teaching their children to evangelize. Grace Youth Group is known as an extremely welcoming group to our neighbors simply due to the fact of how many friends have been welcomed into our youth room and church properties. All of the parents/guardians that have served formally or informally in these roles over years have allowed me to really focus on recruiting young leaders to lead on Sunday evenings and beyond. With the team of advisors we have, I am convinced we are running the race our Lord has commissioned us to do. Our advisor team walks alongside the young people and guides them in their faith lives as is called of us.

Change is not only necessary, but also unavoidable. After listening to Pastor Cover's sending sermon last week, my thoughts were confirmed as she stated the ministry of

Grace has been so strong, especially through transitions, due to the strength, mission and commitment of the congregation through it all! I look forward to serving alongside Pastor Lois as she shepherds the Grace flock into the next stages of our servanthood to the Highland Park area and beyond!

-Jesse Woodrow

Stewardship. Perhaps, one of the most dreaded words in any congregation's vocabulary! From a historical perspective and my rapidly fading memory, this is how our congregation handled this word many years ago.

EMV – Every Member Visitation. After a minimal training session, a team of two persons would canvas the Highland Park and surrounding area, Cedar Cliff, Allendale, etc. and visit pre-determined parishioners, usually after Church on Sundays, to solicit financial support for the mission of the Church. I recall this outreach continued for a number of years.

This was followed by the phone-a-thon approach. A Church member, through his business association, generously offered the facility, which was filled with cubicles with phones for our use. We had a script and a list of names to call. We did this during the evening after the dinner hour.

Were these two approaches to stewardship effective? I do not remember the statistics, but the fact that both approaches were used over a period of years leads me to believe some success was realized.

It was different time. We were not afraid to answer the door. We did not have caller ID. Our car warranty was not about to expire. And the only Google we knew was Barney!

Many of our members appreciated the personal contact, some did not! People gave money to people.

My intent is only to provide a little historical insight on the way it was in a simpler time. In any event, let's all be good stewards with our time, talent, and gifts to our Church.

-Don Barlup

I just wanted to say that I attended the 75th anniversary function in March. It's been a long time, but I did see a few people I knew - Andy Hoff, Alan Gabel, Dawn Ann McCollum, Don Barlup (we all lived on Letchworth) and Nancy Whitcomb.

I came to the celebration to represent my grandfather, who was on the original founding committee, and my grandmother and father who were also charter members. In 1940, my grandparents bought one of the first houses in Highland Park. After they retired and moved to Florida in 1969, my parents bought and lived in the home until my dad's death.

Grace played a large part in our family. Both my grandfather and father were on church council. Both my father and I were confirmed by Pastor Neal, who also officiated my parents and my marriages. Mom was also active with the kindergarten and nursery schools, starting from when I was in the first kindergarten class in 1960-61.

My grandfather joined the church on its second service at Gorgas Hall... I imagine he had been to the first service but took a week to decide. In the 80's, early in my furniture/interior design career, I furnished what is now the Neal library. Glad to see that those pieces held up well!

-Murray W. Sperling, III

*Taken from the Welcome Remarks at the 75th
Anniversary Celebration on March 20, 2022:*

When council asked the fellowship and arts committee to head up this celebration, I was both excited and overwhelmed. I know we have some wonderful historians among us in this congregation who have memories dating back to the very beginning of this church, and I felt like I had so much to learn about Grace. But then I shifted my focus to fellowship – yes, there is rich history in these walls that need to be honored and remembered but I’ve come to find, from listening to everyone share their memories, that the relationships and friendships that we’ve built here is what really upholds this Grace community. We are all members here to learn about the Word of God and how to apply it in our lives, but I can tell you from personal experience that the friends I’ve made here, the wisdom I’ve learned, the advice I’ve received, have made a big impact in my life over the short 7 years I’ve been a member.

I remember the first time I came to visit Grace. I was warmly welcomed to join the Souper Bowl lunch here in the social hall and Eileen Moore Hartzell, and Don & Carol Barlup invited me to sit with them to eat. I don’t know if they even remember it, but it was this small gesture that meant a lot to me. Since then, I’ve found a home at Grace and have felt lifted up by the people, activities and worship.

I’ve heard so many stories about the performance group Encore, the leadership of Pastor Neal, the successful Sunday School program and the strawberry festival – just to name a few. These wonderful memories will stay alive as long as we keep retelling the stories! Now the current Grace families are forming their memories with the youth group, Advent Event, Easter Bunny Potluck and the hands-on Sunday School classes led by Pastor Cover.

In the early stages of planning for this day, a few of us were brainstorming a theme for this celebration. When I heard Vicar Susan throw out “Grateful for God’s Grace”, I knew that was it! Everyone here, I can tell, is grateful for this place: Grace church. I believe we are also grateful to God for giving us every day to make a difference in the lives of our family, friends and those we don’t even know.

I hope that by looking back through all the photos and mementos displayed here and the stories told, we can remember all the fun times and spiritual times we had at Grace and come together to lead future generations to the same memorable and meaningful experiences.

-Hope Pankake

The following are random memories from Ron’s and my years at Grace. They are neither alphabetical nor chronological in order.

The Wildebeest: “Wildebeeste” was the name Ron gave to the ‘limousine-type” car owned by Don Barlup; and used occasionally for transporting kids, etc. to retreats and day outings. The car was purchased from The Hershey School, where it had been used to transport students. I believe it had been chocolate brown then; and I think it had been painted turquoise. Ron told people that it was actually two cars that had been cut up (one supposedly had the engine taken off, and the other had the rear taken off) and then welded together. It was a real attention-getter!

Cabarets: Grace put on some great cabarets, including two generations of can-can dancers. Yes, your minister’s wife was one of those dancers. Phyllis Diller also frequently showed up, channeled by Ann Cirillo.

The Heavens: This was the name Ron gave to his office, which was located off the balcony. Ron mentioned

several times that he had been scared out of his wits when Pastor Neal was patrolling at night with his St. Bernard, and they visited "The Heavens".

Kentland: Kentland was developed over the years to be a fine retreat center. Others have mentioned the church picnics, but we were part of many other gatherings held there.

Senior Retreat at Camp Blue Diamond: Ron and I were blessed to spend time with some of Grace's older members. Thankfully, we did not have to stand guard overnight to watch THEIR activities.

Word and Witness: W&W was a program of the LCA (a precursor to the ELCA) to deepen participant's knowledge of the Bible and their ability to give witness to that wisdom.

Rocky Boy Mission Trip: In 1982 Ron and a group of adults and youth took a 3-week trip to Rocky Boy Reservation in Montana. They did manual labor (painting, etc.) in the Lutheran Church there. In addition to the cultural immersion aspect of the trip, they also visited numerous National Parks and Lutheran Colleges and churches along the way. (Most of their lodging was in colleges and churches.) One interesting note from the trip: Ron left with a mustache and came back 3-weeks later with a full beard and a root canal!

Living Creche: I don't know if the tradition continues now, but in the 70's and 80's the older teens presented an outdoor nativity on the front lawn of the church on Christmas Eve. We wanted to continue this tradition when we moved to Johnstown, but west central PA weather is a bit different than central PA. We soon gave up the outdoor aspect and adapted a live nativity during the reading of the Gospel on Christmas Eve.

Stephen Ministry: Ron, Janet Fluevog, and I trained to lead Stephen Ministry in the early 80's. We were blessed to have many participants from the congregation who then went on to minister within and outside the congregation.

Having the Synod Bishop, his wife and mother as members of the congregation: While a bit of a stressful situation, the McCarney's were wonderful people who gave much to the congregation.

Babysitters: Our children were blessed to have so many people from the congregation care about them. Shannon and Justin felt truly loved, and Ron and I knew they were in good hands when we were occupied with church activities.

Youth Camping Trips to Assateague: Ron told great stories about the teens and their antics on these trips. (Wrestling with sea creatures, scary thunderstorms, marauding ponies and deep conversations).

Our time at Grace was a blossoming time for the Reed family. Ron blossomed in his ministry under the guidance and friendship with Pastor Neal. Our family blossomed too. We arrived with an almost-three-year-old and left with a five-year-old and an almost twelve-year-old. It was also a time when I began to be part of religious education, which I undertook in full measure in Johnstown. So, thank you, Grace Lutheran Church. You blessed us. May God bless you with many more years of ministry in Camp Hill.

Just a quick note about our family. Ron and I retired from full time ministry in 2007. Ron had been at Mt. Calvary for 22 years and I had been there in Christian Education for 20 years. Even in retirement, Ron could not ignore God's calling. He served two more interim pastorates before his deteriorating health prevented him from further service. Ron died on Labor Day in 2015, due to complications from

diabetes and liver cancer. Before my retirement from the church, I began working part-time as a bank teller. In 2014, I retired from that job, and spent much of the following year in caregiving. In 2016 I went back to being a part-time bank teller at a different bank; and worked there until February of 2021, when I once more (and I think finally) retired. Shannon lives in Verona, a suburb of Pittsburgh where she teaches Creative Writing at the University of Pittsburgh. Justin and his wife, Katie, live in Gaithersburg, MD. Justin is a Senior Analyst for the Government Accountability Office (GAO). I am blessed to have them so nearby. It was great sharing memories with you. Being part of Grace's 75 years of ministry was truly a blessing for us.

-Gloria Reed

Music has always been an important part of the Grace experience and worship. Mrs. Edward (June) Sivick is recorded in our early history as the first Choir Director with Mrs. O. R. (Doris) Beaver as our first organist. Many memorable people have followed in the past 75 years with Mr. and Mrs. George (Ruth) Ferrell holding the record, I believe, for longevity as organist and Choir Director. All were early members of Grace.

My earliest recollections of singing (and I use the term loosely) were in the Children's Choir led by Ruth Berry. She and my mother made a deal, not sure my brother and I approved, but at ages 8 and 10 our choices were limited. Mom would watch Ruth's 2 children while Ron and I sang in the Children's Choir. As an antique car lover and collector, my most vivid memory of this experience was being picked up in Ruth's 1956 Packard Patrician Sedan.

Time moved on and I graduated to the Teenage Choir led by Ruth Ferrell. We used to practice in the small

room next to the stage, which is now storage for the Boy Scouts. At that point my voice was probably on par with “Tiny Tim”. (For you younger folks he was married to “Miss Vicky” and sang “Tiptoe Through the Tulips With Me”. His falsetto voice was humorous at best.)

After taking some time off for college, marriage, and raising 3 children, I joined the Adult Choir around 2004. Fortunately, my voice (while still questionable) took on a deeper tone. I have had the pleasure of singing with so many wonderful and talented people over the years and have enjoyed working with the Choir Directors, who have tolerated me as well.

The list of 75 years of Choir members certainly does not exist, but I would remiss if I did not mention 4 of them for their longevity and commitment in our current Choir, Chris McGinnis, Gary Murray, Alan Gabel, and since 1964 (The Grand Dame) Carolyn Bair. We enjoy what we do and are always looking for new recruits!

-Don Barlup

I attended Grace first as a child and then as a member until I met my husband and started attending his church. Over those 30 years I have many wonderful memories of Grace. Especially, those during my childhood and teen years. I remember many wonderful summers spent in Bible Study at Grace with Pastor Reed’s talking tree and Kaptin Kristuns’ Krasie Mascheen. (That’s me in the red shirt). I still remember parts of some of the songs we learned at Bible School ...”The Lord said to Noah there’s gonna be a floody floody....” and “Them bones gonna rise again”. I remember being so excited when I was old enough to lead a Bible School and was excited to be assigned to the playground crew. The township blocked off Chelsea Road

and we played kickball and other sports with the young kids attending Bible School.

I remember the Sports banquets in the social hall where Penn State football players and famous athletes attended. One year I somehow received a baseball (which I still have) and it was signed by Tim McCarver and then the next year I was able to get Greg Gross to sign it. Both of them were members of the Philadelphia Phillies at the time.

As I got older, I started to attend Youth Group and have many wonderful memories of weekend retreats to Kentland, riding in Don Barlup's big blue limo and eating at his Pizza Shop beside the Cedar Run Creek. Then there were confirmation classes. Year one with Pastor Reed and year two with Pastor Neal which culminated in having to sit with him in the sacristy and tell him why I should become a member of the church. Participating in the Passion Play where Alan Gabel played Jesus and Harlow Fluevog was King Herrod to performing in "Cool in the Furnace" and "100% Chance of Rain" or participating in Junior & Youth Choirs. During this time the church went through its building project and the former Nursery School room in the basement was turned into the Youth Room and we christened the wall with all our handprints. Pastor Tim was our Youth Leader during this time. Once confirmed, there was Acolyting and sneaking downstairs to grab a cookie during the service. Growing up in Grace was a wonderful experience.

In 2001 my husband and I were married by Pastor Minick. After the ceremony Don Barlup drove us to our reception in his 1960 Lincoln Continental convertible. Then 3-1/2 years ago things came full circle when I joined the staff of Grace. So many familiar faces come through the door. Happy 75th Grace!

-Diane Moore Deppen

I Remember.....

- ❖ as a boy, playing King of the Mountain on large piles of dirt, excavated from the digging of the church basement.
- ❖ going to the church each evening at 6pm to play the Steeple Bells. There was a record player in the sacristy and albums of hymns, played on an organ to sound as bells.
- ❖ William Rohrbeck entertaining us in the social hall after a covered dish supper. He was attired in his native German outfit, played the accordion and sang. He taught us and had us sing along to the Schnitzelbank Song.
- ❖ going to the church, early on a snowy Sunday morning to help our sexton, Sam Long, shovel the sidewalks, so people could come to worship.
- ❖ Pastor Ron Reed's hugs. You knew you had been hugged!
- ❖ the smile on Paul Steinberg's face when he received recognition for selling the most peanuts and cashews for the nut fry.
- ❖ Pastor Neal on Christmas Eve, the church darkened, clasping his hands, standing under the lighted pulpit, reciting the Christmas Gospel story by memory.
- ❖ my mother and other ladies of the church wearing their hats each Sunday.
- ❖ my first duet when I was in the Junior Choir. I sang "Away in the Manger" with Alice Jean Gutshall.
- ❖ Canteen on Friday nights in the Social Hall, packed with neighborhood teenagers, dancing to live music, eating snacks, drinking Cokes, and playing ping pong. We always closed with the last slow dance of the evening.
- ❖ standing in Barkley Chapel reciting the books of the Old and New Testament before Pastor Neal and the other confirmands, as a requirement to be confirmed.
- ❖ my interview in Pastor Neal's office at the end of our confirmation study. He met with each confirmand privately to discuss their progress and readiness to join the church. The thought was, he could say no, though I don't think he ever did. It was a meeting we all took seriously and let out a

long sigh of relief, when he agreed we were ready to join the church.

- ❖ when Pastor Reed asked me to be Captain Christian at Vacation Bible School. Adorned in a crown and a purple cape, emblazoned with a large gold cross (all made by Penny Meadowcroft), I led the VBS students on a parade through Highland Park. We clapped our hands and shouted, “we love Jesus” to the neighbors who came out to watch.
- ❖ Pastor Neal asking Brian Small, his brother Bob and myself if we could paint the cross, gold, on the Barkley Chapel Steeple. We got the job done, barely, and lived to tell the tale.
- ❖ Ann Cirillo entertaining us after a church dinner with her Phyllis Diller Act.
- ❖ before the parking lot, most people parked on Chelsea Street or in the Highland Park Area. Many church members walked to church. At that time the Chelsea Street entrance was a busy place.
- ❖ Chelsea Street being closed off and packed with people celebrating The Strawberry Festival. All sorts of games (remember Dishing and pie throwing), along with all kinds of strawberry desserts.
- ❖ being asked by Pastor Neal, Al Frank, and Wendy Plowman to portray Christ in our Passion Play. It was a meaningful experience for me and our congregation. We staged our presentation in 3 different years. We had performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. All performances were sold out. So many congregational members participated, not only as cast members, but helped with set building, make up, sound, costumes, and sales. The Passion Play was very special to our congregation.
- ❖ the beautiful tenor voice of Paul Whitcomb. We always enjoyed his solos.
- ❖ Nut fries, hard work and wonderful time spent with church friends. We had the fryers, the runners who took the nuts to the tables to cool, we had the salters, the people who weighed the nuts and the packers. I would go home

exhausted, leaving the Hocker's, the Berry's, and a few others to complete the work and clean up, an all-night job. We did nut fries for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

- ❖ we had a booth at the Farm Show one year selling subs. Volunteers would gather in the early morning hours to make and wrap hundreds of subs. They were transported to the Farm show where Grace Volunteers sold the subs. This process was repeated every day for Farm Show Week. It was a huge undertaking. (We only did this once!).
- ❖ the altar being tight against the back wall under the triptych for many years. Somewhere along the line, the altar was pulled away from the wall and pastors could stand behind it and face the congregation. Who knew this was possible?
- ❖ our traveling musical show, ENCORE, entertained at nursing homes. We wanted to bring the best entertainment possible. A cast of around 20 performers travelled to most area nursing homes. Performances including singing, dancing, and costumes. We travelled with lights, risers, a keyboard, a full drum set, and many other props. Much of our music was show tunes. Without fail, the audiences always clapped their hands and moved their feet, they came alive to our Patriotic Medley. So many good times, so much happiness brought to people who had so little. Thanks to Ruth and Tom.
- ❖ Lenten Breakfasts when I was a teenager. The breakfasts were sponsored by the youth and were held every morning the week before Easter. A short worship service was held in Barkley Chapel, followed by breakfast in the social hall, then off to school.

I have so many other memories of my time at Grace Church. Grace Church has been a big part of my life and I thank God for that blessing.

Bless Grace Church and the memories that are now being made.

-Alan Gabel

My family moved to Highland Park when I started 8th grade. Rev. Neal came to visit our house one day. Upon finding out we were attending Bethlehem Lutheran in Harrisburg he discussed transferring our membership to Grace. (This was a blessing because I used to take the bus to church each Sunday).

What a wonderful experience attending Grace was. Many of my Jr. High friends were in my Sunday School class. We were just a big happy family. Sometime after joining Grace Rev. Neal asked if I would be interested in teaching Bible School. The only requirement was that I needed to be a certain age. I was quick to say "Yes, I was that age" only to have my mother tell Rev. Neal that I was not that old. Up until his death this was a standing joke between us. He would often comment that not many women would make themselves older than they actually were. This always caused us to chuckle.

-Mary Louise Shetter

When Koinonia Groups came to Grace in the early sixties I was in one of the first groups. There were four groups in all. It was Christian fellowship with Bible study, prayers, and support of each other. Betty Fielder wanted to join a group, but they all met in the afternoon. At the time she was still working, so I started an evening group with Betty, Nancy Snyder and Eva Day. We later picked up one more from the community, Audrey Baublitz. Mim Goudy was also part of the group for a short while.

Our Koinonia group became the longest running group ending in the mid 2000's with the death of some members and others moving out of the area. When Betty Fielder moved to the Pittsburgh area, each summer the

remaining members would take a weekend retreat and continue our Bible study, prayer and support. Then every couple of years we would take a big trip together. We went on cruises to the Caribbean, Alaska and the Mediterranean. We developed lifelong bonds that only ended with the death of the other members. I am the last one remaining from the Koinonia Group.

-Eileen Moore Hartzell

I have many happy, wonderful memories of Grace...several of my best include when I taught Sunday School in the Beginner Department with Fran Gabel; participating in the 'Can Can' line during the Cabaret Night as part of Grace's 50th celebration; and Pastor Neal surprising us at home to check and see how we were doing. I so miss all my friends at Grace, and all of the fun we had together. Best of wishes on the 75th Anniversary.

-Madelyn Kase

I remember Al Frank, when he was superintendent of the Sunday School, running into classrooms when we were singing, I Got the Joy Joy Down in My Heart. He would always scream WHERE and we would answer in song.

-Sue Gasswint

My parents, Al and Dot Frank, joined Grace in 1956 when they moved to Highland Park. They were members for over 40 years. My father was the Sunday School Superintendent in the 1960's and 70's and also taught 7th Grade Confirmation. My mother taught Sunday School.

Grace was full of children of all ages - so much so that 6th grade Sunday School had to be held on the stage.

My GELC memories include: Family Nights with a meal and a program in the social hall, always a packed house. My father would help in the kitchen. Counting collection after 11am service - my father was an usher and we stayed to count collection and roll coins. The gift of Kentland, and the first picnics there with the rudimentary shelter, water pump, and the trail down to the creek. Carnations on Mother's Day for the women of Grace, who wore their best Sunday hats and gloves. "Lenten Dime Folders" children would fill with 40 dimes each Lent. The altar triptych closed during Lent and not opened until Easter morning. Confirmation Sundays, with huge classes of confirmands (40 in my class). Vacation Bible School and playing kickball in the middle of Chelsea Road. Pastor Neal's sermons and trying so hard as a child to sit still because that's what you did in church, no exceptions! George Ferrell playing hymns at the organ. My wedding in 1978 with Pastor Reed officiating, and my best friend's (Karen Backenstoe's) wedding a few years later with Pastor Neal.

-Barbara Frank Corlett, North Carolina

Prior to the Sanctuary being built we used the empty lot for a Strawberry Festival. Mr. Ninneman (builder of the Highland Park houses) brought ponies for the children to enjoy a pony ride. I was four years younger than my sister so I missed on the neighborhood big news: Pastor Neal's new convertible.

-Jan Utter

Dedication and Anniversary Celebrations Through the Years

From the first recorded church service on March 31, 1947 at Gorgas Hall (formerly the Lower Allen Township community building and fire department) up to our 75th Anniversary on March 20, 2022 there have been two church dedications and eight anniversary celebrations as follows:

- ❖ March 13-27, 1949: Original Church (Barkley Chapel) dedication - My father, W. Richard (Dick) Barlup, chaired this event
- ❖ March 30, 1952: 5th Anniversary Celebration
- ❖ January 1, 1957: Main Church Dedication - Harold P. Rabuck, Chair
- ❖ 1967: 20th Anniversary Celebration - W. David Allen, Chair
- ❖ March 19, 1972: 25th Anniversary Celebration - W. Richard (Dick) Barlup and Charles Baublitz, Co-Chairs
- ❖ October 9, 1977: 30th Anniversary Celebration - John Judge, Jr. and Murray W. Sperling, Jr., Co-Chairs
- ❖ March 27, 1987: 40th Anniversary Celebration - Helen Ashway, Chair
- ❖ April 6, 1997: 50th Anniversary Celebration - John Judge, Jr., Chair
- ❖ 2007: 60th Anniversary Celebration
- ❖ March 26, 2017: 70th Anniversary Celebration - Don Barlup, Chair

Anniversaries are for celebration of the past and renewal for the future. The best is yet to come. A special thanks to Hope Pankake and her team for planning the 75th Anniversary.

-Don Barlup

Song of Praise

At the Anniversary celebration, a group of children sang *We are the Church*, led by Vicar Susan.

Here are the lyrics:

I am the church! You are the church!

We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus,
all around the world!

Yes, we're the church
together!

The church is not a building;

the church is not a steeple;

the church is not a resting
place;

the church is a people.



Mailman Earl Hocker delivering the first door to door mail delivery in Highland Park to Elizabeth Barlup.



Gorgas Community Center. The first Grace service was held here on March 23, 1947, and through 1949 until the church building was completed.



Photo taken outside of Gorgas Hall on the day Grace was received into The Central PA Synod of The United Lutheran Church in America.



This building was at the corner of Chelsea and Carlisle Roads and was included in 3 lots of land the congregation purchased in 1948 to build a church. Preschool and kindergarten Sunday School classes were held in this small building.



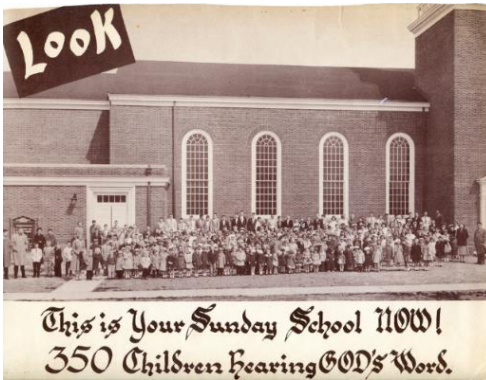
April 24, 1949 - Pastor Neal breaking ground at the ceremony for the first church building.



The first church building dedicated on November 13, 1949. Now known as the Barkley Chapel.



May 27, 1956 - As membership quickly grew, a new, large Sanctuary was built.



Easter Sunday, 1957



**Ann Cirillo and her son, Rick who was just confirmed.
Confirmation Sunday, 1967. Provided by Barbara Corlett.
Photograph taken by Barbara's father Al Frank.**



Grace Softball Team



Worship Service at Grace



Al Frank at Rally Day in 1975



Nursery School - 1975



The Cast of Godspell 1978 Back Row: Alan Gabel & Laurie Harman Zimmerman Middle Row: Paul Whitcomb, Carolyn Bair, Dick Hoff, Janet Berry Kramer and Dave Allan Front Row: Lisa Stuckey Grimm, Ruth Berry and David Kramer



Bible School



Some members of Boy Scout Troop 54 at Kentland in 1978. (Scout Leader Frank Schrey, Scott Kent, Brad Moore and Keith Beshore) Frank Schrey served with Troop 54 for more than 45 years. He received the Silver Beaver Award of Merit from the BSA and assisted a troop of Scouts with special needs.



It's Cool in The Furnace - 1979



The Living Creche on Christmas Eve



Shannon Reed and Rachel Wright in the Passion Play



There are some current members enjoying a good laugh as Pastor Neal takes Pastor Reed's imaginary dog, Ruff, for a run.



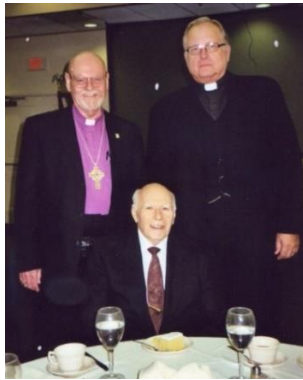
Pastor Ron Reed



Koinonia Group - 2001. Betty Fielder, Nancy Snyder, Audrey Baublitz & Eileen Moore Hartzell



Pastor Dave Sonnenberg, Pastor Tim Roser & Pastor Russell Mueller



Bishop B. Penrose Hoover, Pastor C. Arthur Neal & Pastor Russell Mueller



Pastor Virginia Cover and Pastor Evan Houck starting Palm Sunday Service outside, 2017

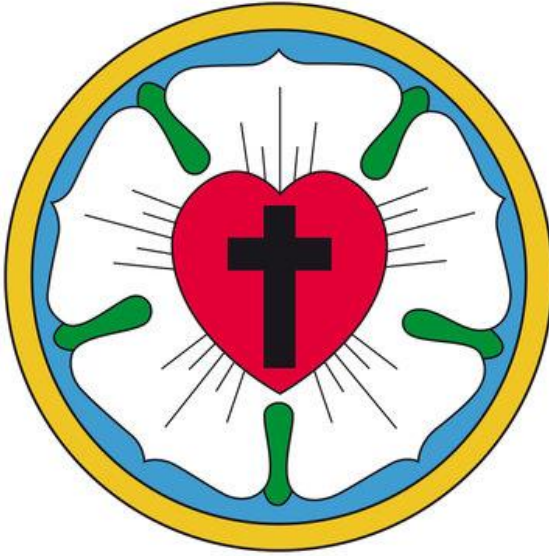
Active Groups at Grace today

- Church Council & Executive Committee
- Treasurer & Finance Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Endowment Fund Committee
- Chancel Choir
- Bells of Grace
- Abundant Grace Band
- Grace Youth Group & Junior Youth Group
- Youth Sunday School
- Youth Sunday School Teachers & Helpers
- Property Committee & Property Task Force
- Book Club
- Fellowship & Arts Committee
- Children, Family & Youth Ministry Committee
- The Gathering
- Men of Grace
- Caregiver & Grief Support Group
- Adult Bible Study
- Stewardship Committee
- Quilters of Grace
- Prayer Shawl Ministry
- Giving Pantry
- Community Prayer Ministry
- Altar Guild
- Stephen Ministry
- Worship & Music Committee
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Assisting Ministers, Communion Assistants & Lectors
- Night Security Team
- Sound Team
- Personnel Committee
- Kentland Task Force

Our Story

Matthew 25:35-40: ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"

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



The Rev. Pastor Lois Van Orden, Interim Senior Pastor
The Rev. Pastor Evan Houck, Coordinator of Pastoral Care
Jesse Woodrow, Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministry
Kristopher Hartman, Director of Music
Emily Hartman, Organist
Chris Jury, Administrative Assistant
Diane Deppen, Office Support

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