



# Good News from Grace

January 2024

## Our Purpose

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

### ***Let the Stable Still Astonish***

By Leslie Leyland Fields

Let the stable still astonish:  
Straw-dirt floor, dull eyes,  
Dusty flanks of donkeys, oxen;  
Crumbling, crooked walls;  
No bed to carry that pain,  
And then, the child,  
Rag-wrapped, laid to cry  
In a trough.

Who would have chosen this?

Who would have said: "Yes,

Let the God of all the heavens and earth  
be born here, in this place." ?

Who but the same God

Who stands in the darker, fouler rooms of our  
hearts

and says, "Yes, let the God

of Heaven and Earth

be born here ----

in this place."

∞ ✦ ∞

I came across this poem several years ago while reading a book during the week between Christmas and New Year. I often turn to this poem, especially at this time of year—after the presents are unwrapped and put away, after family has returned to their homes, with the tree laden with ornaments on branches of dried needles. I continue to listen to Christmas music well into January because I don't want Christmas to "be over." In this New Year, I

wonder, how does the gift of Christmas in the birth of our Savior continue to astonish you?

We can find ways to return to the stable, to ponder upon the Christ-child once again, and to invite Christ to be born again in our hearts—cold with envy, hate, anger, bitterness, resentment and all those things we call "sin." I offer some suggestions for you to "let the stable still astonish" in these cold, wintry days, when the warm glow of Christmas candles, the beauty of carols and the presence of family and friends are quickly fading into memories of another Christmas past.

I invite you to listen to your favorite Christmas carols a little longer—not only well into January but also throughout the year. Sing along! Ponder the texts that tell the story of Mary and Joseph, of a babe born in Bethlehem, of angels, shepherds and magi, and of King Herod who tried to destroy the good that God brought into the world.

I invite you to read this poem. Let the words hang on your lips and in your thoughts. Walk with these words. Share this poem with a friend who has lost a loved one or who is struggling with illness, or another crisis. Let the stable astonish them in a new way, offering comfort and consolation.

I invite you to use this poem as a prayer—for those who are in prison, persecuted, or held as hostages, for those who live in war-torn areas of our world. Pray that Christ may be born in the dark corners of their world to bring light into their hearts.

I invite you to let this poem carry you from dark places into the light of Christ—in this New Year and always.

Blessings, Pastor Lois

***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**

**January Worship Services  
- Guest Preachers**

On January 6 and 7, we will celebrate the Epiphany of Our Lord (visit of the Magi) with Seminarian Hope Pankake preaching.

On January 21, the Rev. Dr. Martin Otto-Zimmann, United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg, will preach the sermon and lead the Adult Sunday school class, addressing the work of the Lutheran Church in Israel in the midst of tensions and war between Israel and Hamas. See more about the Rev. Dr. Otto-Zimmann on page 4 of this newsletter.

We are richly blessed with the gifts of Hope Pankake and those of the larger church. Please be sure to mark your calendars for these dates to support both guest preachers.

**This Month at Grace...**

The Sanctuary Lamp Sponsorship for **January** is given anonymously to The Glory of God.

The Special Benevolence Offering for **January** is **The Giving Pantry**. To contribute please list the dollar amount next to Special Offering Ministry and list *The Giving Pantry as well as which one you are selecting* under comments.

**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.

*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.***





## 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 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](#).

On **January 7, 2024** there is NO JYG due to the Winter Retreat at Camp Kirchenwald. There will be Sunday School for the K-2 at 10:45am.

## GYG Upcoming Events

### January

- 5 Winterfest @ Wyndham Lancaster
- 14 GYG Night
- 18 Extravaganza National Youth Leaders
- 28 GYG Brunch

### February

- 18 5:00pm GYG Night
- 25 10:45am Lent Event

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

## JYG Upcoming Events

### January

- 5 Winter Retreat at Camp Kirchenwald

### February

- 4 10:45 - 12:00pm JYG
- 25 10:45 - 12:00pm Lent Event

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



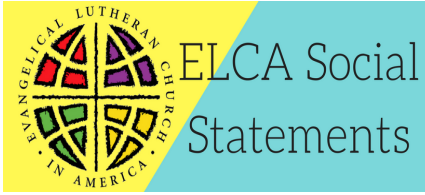
## Winter Fun Day

**January 14 | 1 - 4pm | Camp Kirchenwald | 1 Cut Off Rd, Lebanon**

Bring your family and enjoy an afternoon on Kirchenwald's award-winning toboggan run, ice skating on the lake, or drinking hot chocolate in the lodge. [Click Here](#) to register. *Free will offering accepted.*







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

A study of the ELCA social statements continues into January.

On January 21, 2024, we are excited to host the Rev. Dr. Martin Otto-Zimmann from the United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg. He will address the work of the Lutheran Church

in Israel in the midst of tensions and war between Israel and Hamas. Dr. Otto-Zimmann served the English Congregation of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem and was assistant to former LWF President, Bishop Munib Younan for 1.5 years. He currently serves on the board of the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development in the Middle East. Dr. Otto-Zimmann will also preach during the Sunday morning worship service. Everyone is welcome to join the class for this special topic.

Date	Topic
Jan. 7	Social Statement -- Abortion
Jan. 14	Social Statement -- Sexism
Jan. 21	Guest Speaker - the Rev. Dr. Martin Otto-Zimman, United Lutheran Seminary
January 28	Social Statement - Sexism

**“Breathing the Word” Bible Study  
Tuesdays, 1:00 pm—Conference Room**



The group expressed an interest in engaging the ELCA Social Statements that have been and continue to be studied by the Sunday morning Adult class. The study will begin with statements to be selected by the group. Please see Pastor Lois for a list of the available statements to express your interest in topics.

Date	Topic
Jan 9	ELCA Social Statement
Jan 16	ELCA Social Statement
Jan 23	ELCA Social Statement
Jan 30	ELCA Social Statement

*The Community Meal at Grace*



2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month

Join us for the Community Meal on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday each month from 5:30 - 6:30pm in the Social Hall.  
More information at <https://www.gracecamphill.org/service>

## Kentland Project Progress Report

This past month, the Kentland interior has really begun to take shape. The new ceiling and LED lights make the space look clean and bright, while the pine walls give it that rustic feel that we were hoping for. The restored fireplace now looks better than I ever imagined!

This past week our kitchen was installed, and a new refrigerator and range as well.

For the next two weeks, we will be concentrating on applying a clear sealer on our walls. This will take a significant effort as we have quite a bit of square feet of surface to seal. The good news is that this activity is very simple and straightforward; something that almost everyone can help with. We will start the process by cleaning the walls, and then we will be brushing and rolling on the sealer. We will need two coats with some sanding in between coats so this will be a significant amount of hours to keep us busy for the next couple of weeks.

Looking forward then, our new flooring will be delivered after the new year, and we will concentrate on getting that installed.

Please feel free to come out and check things out! We continue to work Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays. ***Note: There will be no work at Kentland on December 23 & December 25. Work will resume on December 27 & 30. There will be no work on Monday, January 1, 2024 and work will resume again on Wednesday, January 3, 2024.***

If you haven't seen the Kentland project drawings in the Library you can view them [HERE](#). [CLICK HERE](#) to view update images of the progress at Kentland. [CLICK HERE](#) if you'd like to contribute towards the costs of the remodel.



### 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.



### **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...***

Susie Hopper, Bob Erskine and Renee Schoof, Joyce Thomas (Ohio) & son, David, Russ Weber, Andy Heidingsfelder, Brigitte Storey, Donald Gardner, Madelyn Kase, Barry & Judi Fenicle, Antoinette (Toni) Bookshar, Dave Rowland, 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...***

Dave Rowland, Nancy Dunn, Debra George, Lynn Royal, Bonnie Peechatka, Marcie, Luke & Wesley Beam, Eric Rome, Dana Moore, Ed Yoffee, 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, Joan Harman, John Hench, 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

“We never know how God will answer our prayers, but we can expect that He will get us involved in His plan for the answer. If we are true intercessors, we must be ready to take part in God's work on behalf of the people for whom we pray.”

– Corrie ten Boom

## 2024: Your year for abundant living

Many Christians think of “stewardship” only in financial terms, but money is only one of the gifts God entrusts us with – and it’s usually the one we value less than our gifts of time, relationships, faith and health.

Make 2024 your year for holistic stewardship - and abundant living – by taking steps to care better for ALL the gifts God entrusts to us, including our finances. Here are tips.

**Health:** Get a physical and ask your doctor to help you to form a strategy for better living. For most of us, the plan would include eating better, exercising more and practicing wellness.

**Relationships:** We not only share love and joy with family and friends, but also turn to and rely on them in times of trouble. Care for your relationships with honest and frequent communication, get-togethers and sharing. Renew and repair relationships that need it.

**Time:** Are you just mindlessly counting the hours and days? Take charge of your time by planning events and activities that enrich your life. Plan for health and relationships.

**Faith:** No matter where you are on your discipleship journey, all of us can draw closer to God and open ourselves more fully to the Holy Spirit. For 2024, commit to regular worship, prayer, Scripture reading, devotions, service and other faith practices.

**Money:** Get your finances in order. Consider the 10-10-80 plan, budgeting your income to save 10 percent, give away 10 percent, and living on 80 percent.

God has given us so much. Stewarding the most important aspects of our lives can bring us into the life of abundance that Jesus promises us in John 10:10.

--Rob Blezard

*Copyright © 2024, Rev. Robert Blezard. Used 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.



## Congregational Fiscal Meeting

Sunday, January 21, 2024  
immediately after worship

This meeting will be to answer questions and approve the annual budget. Copies of the budget will be available in the Library January 13/14 and sent out with the electronic version of the Grace Notes on January 10

### Contribution Statements

Anyone who gave a contribution of record (i.e. envelope) to Grace in 2023 will receive a contribution statement. These statements will be sent out the week of January 8, 2024.

If you do not receive a statement, have a question or concern regarding your statement please contact Diane at 717-737-0439 x15 or [deppengelc@gmail.com](mailto:deppengelc@gmail.com).



*From the Church Council*

### Council Actions December 2023



Council voted to approve an expense to replace the social hall circulating pump.

Council set the financial Congregational meeting for January 21, 2024.

Council approved a silent auction fundraising effort by the quilters to benefit the Organ Fund.

Thanks to Marti Bert, the remaining money from the TFEC grant Grace received at the end of last year was used to purchase supplies and food for distribution to needy children at Highland Elementary School. The leftover ~\$21.00 was deposited in the Community Meal Fund.

**FROM THE TREASURER**



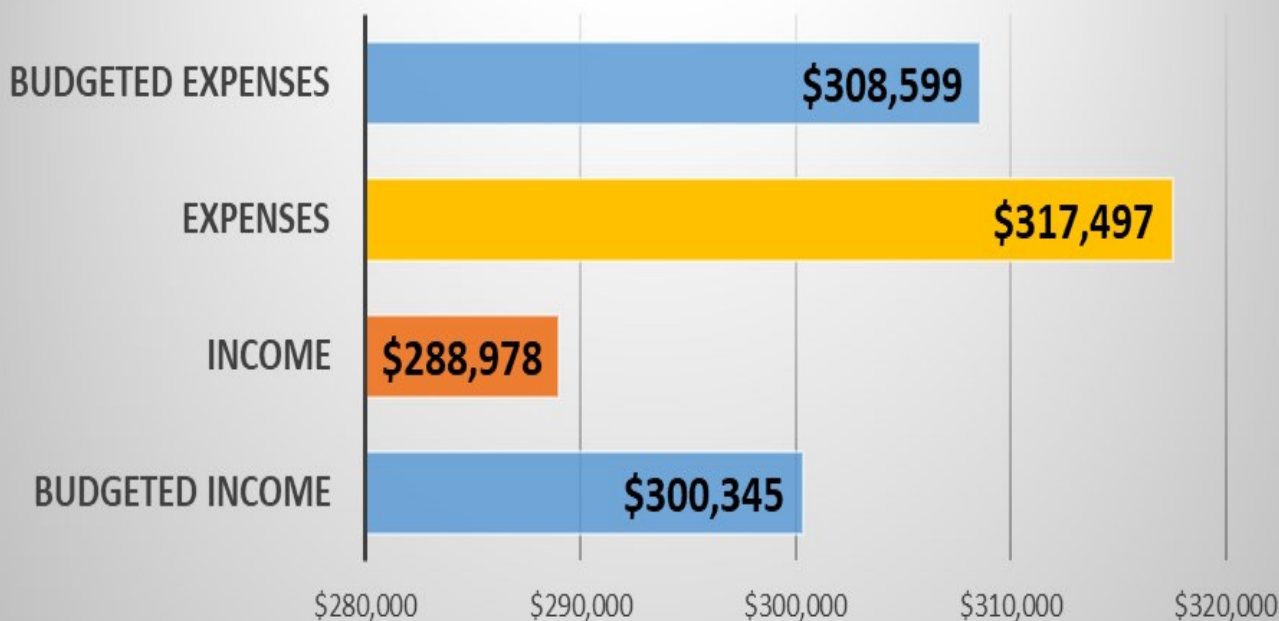
Dear members and friends of Grace,

The year is almost over and council is hard at work in the middle of our budget planning process. Thank you to everyone who has returned a pledge card to help us plan for next year, and also thank you to everyone who is continuing your generous giving to our ministries. Our church isn't the product of a few or a handful of people; it's made possible by all of us (members, visitors,

friends...). We have tough challenges ahead but Grace's members and friends make a great team. I hope 2024 is a wonderful year for all of you.

Susan Dickinson, Treasurer

### Grace Lutheran Church, thru Nov 2023





## **Grape Juice now offered for communion/New Gluten Free Tray**

Children and those who cannot/do not wish to receive wine now have the option to receive grape juice.

A separate cup tray, with 12 pre-filled cups of white grape juice, will be in a burgundy colored communion tray. Those who wish to receive grape juice are to pick up a pre-filled cup. After receiving bread, move to the pouring chalice. The server speaks the words, "The blood of Christ shed for you." Then, drink the juice and dispose of the cup in the basket.

The same cup tray (burgundy colored) has a center tray with the gluten free wafers. For those who need gluten free wafers, please take one from the center tray. Move to the pastor/ assisting minister who speaks the words, "The body of Christ given for you." Then, eat your wafer before receiving wine.

Please do not take a cup of grape juice or a gluten free wafer unless you have a need for these elements. Bread and wine will continue to be distributed as in the past.

If all of the pre-filled cups are taken, then those communing may receive wine or choose not to receive a drink. One is considered fully communed by receiving either one or both elements.

Please see Pastor Lois if you have any questions.

## **CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS**

# **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**



**GRACE IS LOOKING FOR DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING TEAMS:**

- NIGHT SECURITY TEAM
- GREETING TEAM
- OPENING TEAM
- SOUND TEAM
- LIVE STREAM TEAM



**CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE TODAY AT 717-737-0439  
OR GELC@COMCAST.NET**



QUILTING MINISTRY

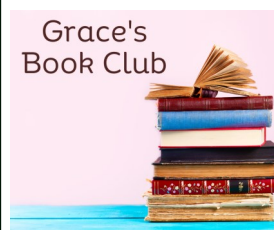
## Grace's Quilters Raising Money for the Organ Fund

The quilters of Grace are excited about the purchase of a new organ and wish to help with offsetting the costs. With Council's approval, the quilters are offering their handiwork in a display that will be sure to dazzle! All proceeds will go to the organ fund.

The quilts will be displayed at Grace in Barkley Chapel, the narthex and the Library starting the beginning of January 2024. Each quilt will have an attached envelope stating the size of the quilt (large or medium) as well as the minimum donation asked and instructions on how to make a donation. The quilts are offered for a donation of \$50 for a large quilt or \$30 for a medium quilt.

The Quilting Ministry greatly appreciates your support over the years and your donations of fabric and other supplies to make this ministry of love possible. We are excited about giving back to Grace with this special fundraiser.

Mary Banaszewski



## Grace's book club has selected "**Before We Were Yours**" by **Lisa Wingate**.

Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shantyboat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge--until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents--but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility's cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty.

Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé, and a lavish wedding on the horizon. But when Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family's long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption. Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals--in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country--Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong".

Lisa Wingate is a former journalist, an inspirational speaker, and the bestselling author of more than thirty books. Her blockbuster "Before We Were Yours" was on the NYT best seller list for over one year. Her work has won or been nominated for many awards, including the Pat Conroy Southern Book Prize, the Oklahoma Book Award, the Utah Library Award, the Carol Award, the Christy Award, and the RT Reviewers' Choice Award. Lisa believes stories can change the world.

Join Grace's book club on **Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 7pm via Zoom** for the book discussion. [\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#) for Zoom information.



1/1 Ben Walker  
 1/2 Claudio Carvalhaes  
 1/3 G. Robert Little  
 1/4 Jonathan Brouse  
 Mike Hartman  
 Anna Stopfel  
 Brigitte Storey  
 1/6 Karen DeYoung  
 Elena Ryerson  
 1/8 Andrew Heidingsfelder  
 Alton Hughes  
 Sue Kaufmann  
 1/10 Gladys Cline  
 Addison McInnes  
 1/12 Wanda Bentz  
 Chris Jury  
 Karen Jury  
 Garry Murray  
 1/13 Jen Graf  
 1/14 Wilson Castillo  
 Kayden Hall  
 Krystal Hall  
 Madelyn Kase  
 Russell Weber  
 1/15 Sharon Statler  
 1/16 Edward Hurst  
 George B. Osswald  
 Megan Seeger  
 1/18 Elise Buchanan  
 Steve Flook  
 1/19 Chaney Helman  
 Caitlyn Robison

1/20 Gabriel Angus  
 1/22 Barry Hoover  
 1/23 Michael Morrow  
 Collette Runkle  
 Lisa Shenck  
 Carol Stark  
 1/24 Dave Rowland  
 1/25 Claire Seeger  
 John Shuey  
 1/26 Vicki Whitcomb  
 1/27 Robert Gill  
 Emma Midgarden  
 Melissa Murphy  
 1/28 Lynn Budzinski  
 Tanya Good  
 1/31 Bonnie Barton  
 Kristianna Scharein

**Let's Celebrate Some Monumental Birthdays!**

*Gladys Cline turns 99 years old on January 10; Wanda Bentz turns 92 on January 12; John Shuey turns 90 on January 25. Take a moment to wish them a happy birthday with a telephone call or mail a card to:*

*Gladys Cline  
 153 Logan Road  
 Room 208  
 Dillsburg, PA 17019*

*Wanda Bentz  
 1403 Longfellow Court  
 New Cumberland, PA 17070-2234*

*John Shuey  
 824 Lisburn Road  
 Room 226  
 Camp Hill, PA 17011*

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Chicken & Waffles

**FREE | Sunday, January 14 | 12-2pm | Camp Nawakwa |**

Spend a Sunday at camp with a delicious home-made chicken and waffles dinner. Bring your sleds (if there's snow) to work off the calories as camp food actually has calories! A free will offering accepted. Please **RSVP** or call 717-677-8211.

### Music At the Spring - Duo Entre-Nous

**FREE | Sunday, January 21 | 2pm | 14 State Road, Mechanicsburg**

Jackie Glazier, Clarinet & Don-Paul Kahl, Saxophone are hailed as the world's leading saxophone and clarinet duo. Duo Entre-Nous is dedicated to the evolution and continued progression of new music. Recognized both nationally and internationally, the duo's mission is to bring excellence in performance and practice to all avenues of their work.

### IceFest

**FREE | January 25–28, 2024 | Chambersburg, PA**

IceFest is a four-day festival with the streets of Chambersburg lined with various ice sculptures. Pull out your favorite scarf and mittens, bundle the kids up and be sure to grab your camera; you won't want to miss the faces of those that sit upon the giant ice throne for the first time or stand beside their favorite sculpture. The event is labeled as the largest ice festival in Pennsylvania. In downtown Chambersburg, you will have a chance to witness a live carving of enormous sculptures or ride a free ice slide. You can take part in a chili cook-off and the icing on the cake decorating contest or you can join the Run Your Ice Off 5K. There is also a free movie, Polar Dunk Tank, a scavenger hunt, Kids' Obstacle course, and glass blowing demonstrations. For a complete schedule of events go to <https://www.icefestpa.com/>



### 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.

**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

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[www.gracecamphill.org](http://www.gracecamphill.org)