

Grace Lutheran Church
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Grace Messenger August-September 2024

A NOTE FROM PASTOR WENDOLYN

Greetings, my family in faith!

I've been here at Grace for almost three months now – not very long, but long enough to discover that you are a loving and welcoming congregation, with love for God and community. I've seen people bond together to build up people and ministries. I've talked to people who rely on Grace as a center in the community, where our walls hold us up rather than keep anyone out.

I am continuing to serve here for the foreseeable future, and I'm so grateful. I continue to worship with you on most Sundays, lead the Adult Forum, attend to other education needs like First Communion, attend Council meetings, and be the pastoral caregiver for our community. I have shared home communion with nine households, visited two hospitalized members, and shared in behind-the-scenes work of administration, planning, and communication. I feel blessed to be pastoring at Grace, and I have received affection and encouragement that means the world to me!

Peace in Christ,

><> Pastor Wendolyn

STAFF AT GRACE

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo, Vice Pastor

Scott J. Breiner, Music Director

Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant

Heidi Toth, Church Treasurer

Sandy Piskun, Ruth Bowden, Financial Secretaries

Joseph Martin, Church Council President

Mary Goodman, Church Council Vice President

Dale Kredatus, Church Council Secretary

Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

REPORT FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT, JOE MARTIN

Council met on July 18th. There was a lengthy discussion regarding Pastor Wendolyn's future at Grace. Pastor has passed her state testing to become an EMT and hopes to acquire a job in the near future. She anticipates continuing at Grace for at least a year. At the August Council meeting we will all be reviewing Pastor's work status and be in a better position to discuss the future. Council and the Call Committee will keep the congregation aware of things as we progress.

Council is scheduled to meet with the Bishop at the September Council meeting and we will all have a better feel for the status of the Call.

The Directory is nearing completion and will be going to print in the near future.

If anyone can assist at the Somers Point Good Old Days celebration on September 7th please let the office know. The present plan is to have a table again promoting Grace and membership.

The painting and storm window project are to begin in September.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE

Our Church Directory is in progress! We would like to add a page or two of pictures of the different committees and ministry groups here at Grace. If you would like to have a picture of your ministry group in the directory, please take and submit those pictures by August 30 to:
gracelutheranmedia24@gmail.com.

If you have not yet had a personal/family picture taken or submitted, this would be the very last call for you to submit that, as well.

We hope to have the directory ready to distribute by the Fall in celebration of our 100th anniversary!



Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.



**WORSHIP SPONSORSHIPS:
FLOWERS, CANDLES, WINE, BULLETINS, MUSIC**

We are in need of flower sponsors, as well as other sponsorships for the remainder of the year. The sign-up charts are on the bulletin board across from the elevator. If you are unable to get there to sign up, you may also call the church office and Corinne will be happy to sign you up for the dates you wish to be a sponsor.

FELLOWSHIP SPONSORS FOR 2024

August	8/4/24	Church: First Communion
September	9/8/24	Worship & Music Committee
October	10/13/24	Ushers
November	11/10/24	Facilities Committee
December	12/15/24	100 th Anniversary Gala

2024 WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

<u>August</u>		<u>September</u>	
8/4	Edna Cordery	9/1	Ruth Bowden
8/11	June Jordan	9/8	Corinne Rhodes
8/18	Kevin Thomas	9/15	Meg Markkanen
8/25	James Ehrhardt	9/22	Meg LaSpina
		9/29	Mary Ann Gring

SUPPORT COMMITTEE-GIVING WITH GRACE

Our “**Last Will and Testament**” is a document that we leave behind to instruct our heirs as to how we would like to divide our life’s wealth. How you divide your accumulated wealth should be your decision, but for many of us it is a hard document to produce because it requires us to deal with our own mortality. We must face the certainty that we will not live forever.

The uglier truth is that if we do not create a **Last Will** of our choosing, our assets will be divided by convoluted regulations established by New Jersey under the control of court-appointed administrators. In other words, if you do not create a **Will**, the State has created one for you. Under State mandate, not only will money and property be shared by our heirs, but the court will determine who will have control over minor children. Children regardless of their level of maturity can gain full control of an inheritance when they reach the age of 18.

A court appointed administrator can never know our heirs as we do. A court appointed administrator can never know our heartfelt desires for those we leave behind. Moreover, there are no provisions in court-administered estates to provide for contributions to charity. Unless you create a **Will**, no charities of your choice can benefit from your life’s work. Have you considered naming Grace Lutheran Church, or any other charity for that matter, to be included in your Will? Without a **Will**, charitable contributions from your estate are impossible.

It is always good advice when considering any gift transaction to consult your tax advisor as to how that gifting strategy might affect your personal situation.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Please visit, like, and follow our Facebook page, titled **Grace Lutheran Friends!** You can also find us on Instagram! We would like to start livestreaming our church services on Facebook. This would help us to get more viewers and allow more people to see us and the ministries and social events we provide. In order to do this, we need at least 100 followers. All you have to do is follow Grace Lutheran Friends on Facebook, then invite all of the people on your friend list to like and follow our page, following these easy steps:
Search for **Grace Lutheran Friends**– NOT Grace Lutheran Church– and tap on it.

Tap on followers (next to likes and under the title)

Tap on invite others.

Tap on Select All.

Tap on Send Invites (at the bottom)

UPCOMING EVENTS

100th ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Join us on September 21 at 6:30 pm for an evening of entertainment and fun with The Playmates!

This will be a benefit concert for the **Ocean City Humane Society** and the **Beacon Animal Rescue**. Checks can be made out to either organization or to Grace Lutheran Church for distribution. Meet and Greet with light refreshments following the concert!



Oktoberfest 2024

We hope you will join us for our 2nd Annual German Festival of fun, food and music on

Friday, September 27

5:00 PM—8:00 PM

Featuring: “Not Another Oompah Band”

Invite family! Invite friends! Invite neighbors!

Tickets will go on sale beginning of September:

Adults: \$30

Youth: (ages 6-12): \$15

Children 5 & under: Free



CALL COMMITTEE (REPORTED BY STEPHEN GRING, CHAIR)

Grace Council has appointed a Call Committee to oversee the process of selecting the next pastor. The main purpose of the Call Committee is to interview prospective applicants for the position of pastor and recommend a candidate to Council.

Members of the Call Committee include: Stephen Gring, Chair; Chris Dennis, Secretary; Wendy Dolan; Meg Markkanen; Carol Landes; and Eddie Thompson.

The first task of the Call Committee was to complete the MSP- the Ministerial Site Profile, an 11 page document that includes information related to the demographics of the Church, goals and aspirations of the congregation, expectations for the new pastor and other pertinent information.

The MSP was filed with the Synod in early July after it was reviewed and edited by Council.

The next step in the process is a meeting of Council and Call Committee with the Bishop; this meeting has been scheduled for mid -September . Following this requisite meeting, the Bishop will officially activate the search process and solicit applicants.


Given this very methodical process established by the Synod, it is very realistic to surmise that the appointment of a new pastor could take months.

Please keep the members of the Call Committee in your prayers as we embark on this very important task.



Romans 15:13

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**



PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

Members of Grace: Debbie K., Renee P., Carole T., Bettie C., Inger R., Diana M., Fritz F., Bruce H., Bonnie C., Ruth K., Lois R., Amanda P., Barry L., Frank G., Margaret G., Pam M., Michael L., Don B., Family and Friends of Bob C., Family and Friends of Fritz F.

Our family and friends: Eileen, Jeff (Ruth T.), Stephanie B., Marilyn, Margie, Ric (Ruth B.), Patti R., Kayla, Kelly, Lorna & Luna (Clare B.), Bob, Kim (Jim F.), Savannah, Houston (June J.), Shirley (Debbie K.), Bob & Lou (Dale K.), Jim, Elliot & Family, Elora, Carmen, Brenda (Meg L.), Tim (Diana M.), Karen, Ashley, Patricia, Terry, Jason (Renee P.), Ralph, Catherine, Sal, Ana, Mark, Andy (Corinne R.), Rob, Dorrie (Marlene D.), Carrie (Ray H.), Sue (Carol L.), Christine K., Demetri, Amy, and Abigail, Jayden, Robin, Shawn, Jim, and Vicki, (Bob K.), Marilyn (Sue R.), Linda (Edna C. & Patty D.), Bruce (Brenda T.), Lynn F., Annette & Nathan L., Family and Friends of Ann (Bettie C.), Dawn (Meg M.), Lisa (Roberta B.)

Those serving our country: Matthew Bilello, ANG, Cainan Johnson, USAF, & Daniel Casner, 3rd USN

Woodview Estates: Lorraine Moore

The Shores at Wesley Manor: Eleanore Guire

Please notify the church office of any changes or additions to our prayer list.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August

8/4 Ray Hunsicker
8/4 Diana McArdle
8/4 Bob Reilly
8/4 Tom Wigglesworth
8/5 Maureen Dewees-Cahn
8/5 Johanna Reilly
8/11 Jane Thompson
8/18 Sue Somers
8/19 Bruce Hoelter
8/20 Dale Rader
8/21 Al Johnson
8/23 Lisa Merce
8/24 Carolynne Rusek

September

9/4 Karsen Bilello
9/6 Jorge Perez
9/7 Pam Mele
9/8 Alex Piskun
9/8 Norm Thinschmidt
9/9 Barry Levine
9/10 Donald Brown
9/17 Mike Piskun
9/20 Mary Ellen Bartholomew
9/22 Carol Landes
9/22 Lauren Piskun
9/23 Jim Ehrhardt
9/25 Jason Berenotto
9/29 Edna Cordery



August

8/8 Ruth & Charlie Bowden
8/18 Nancy & Joe Billelo

September

9/8 Johanna & Bob Reilly
9/9 Kristin & Eric Horrox
9/11 Sue & Bernie Somers
9/13 Miranda & Matthew Bilello
9/27 Donna & Mike Berenotto