

Grace Lutheran Church  
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Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

# Messenger

## January 2025

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, February 2 immediately following the  
10:15 AM worship service.**

Although Pastor Wendolyn will be on vacation and will not be present on this particular Sunday, please note that **your attendance is vitally important!** We are required to have a quorum in order to hold the meeting and would prefer to not have to reschedule due to lack of attendance. We will have some very important items to discuss on our agenda, and will be voting in new council members. Your input and votes matter!

There will be a **budget hearing for the annual meeting on Sunday, January 19 at the 10:15 AM worship service.** This will give the congregation an opportunity to receive the proposed budget for 2025 and to ask any questions regarding it before the annual meeting, to hopefully save time during the annual meeting.

### **YEAR-END SUMMARY** **Council President, Joe Martin**

Dear Congregation of Grace,

Council had a very busy year in 2024. In March Pastor Althea advised Council that she would be leaving Grace to return to her home town. April was a good month as we were blessed to have Pastor Wendolyn appointed as our interim Pastor. We are all grateful that she is with us.

### **Staff at Grace**

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo, Interim Pastor  
Scott J. Breiner, Music Director  
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant  
Heidi Toth, Church Treasurer  
Ruth Bowden, Sandy Piskun, Financial Secretaries

Joseph Martin, Church Council President  
Mary Goodman, Church Council Vice President  
Dale Kredatus, Church Council Secretary  
Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

Many committees were formed and active during 2024. A Call Committee was appointed to help lead us to a new pastor and they have been very busy. The 100 year anniversary of the Church was celebrated due to the hard work of the 100th Anniversary Committee. The Investment Committee was formed and has done good work offering Council alternatives for our Endowment Fund. The Facilities Committee has been very busy and finished all the new storm windows and painting of the building. State fire inspection repairs are still under way and general repairs as always. Council wants to thank all the committees working to keep Grace strong and healthy.

Thank you to everyone at Grace that works so hard to keep the Food Pantry going. They had a record year and do God's work feeding those in need in our community.

Thank you to Mary Goodman, Dale Kredatus and Robin Johnson for serving 3 years on Church Council.

The Annual Meeting will be held on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. Please try to make this as we need a quorum.

Sincerely,  
Joe Martin

### **Food Pantry**

The food pantry would like to sincerely thank everyone who donated food this holiday season! Many local families in need were able to enjoy Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners thanks to your generosity.

### **Sponsorships for Altar Flowers and Other Worship Items**

The 2025 sponsorship charts are available for sign-up on the downstairs bulletin board across from the elevator. We are currently in need of flower sponsors for January 12, 19, 26, and February 2 & 9. You may sign-up or call the church office and let us know what dates and items you would like to sponsor. The items and cost are as follows:

Flowers (\$30), Candles (\$10), Wine (10), Bulletins (\$15), Music (\$50), and Messenger (\$50)

### **January Worship Assistants**

1/5 Ruth Bowden  
1/12 Shirley Blankenship/Corinne Rhodes  
1/19 Meg Markkanen  
1/26 Meg La Spina

### **Thrivent Workshop: A Lifetime Gift The Shores in Ocean City on January 17<sup>th</sup>**

We plan for so many things in our life: weddings, children, school, home, vacation, retirement . . . but we are not particularly good at planning for the “What Ifs” in life. How will your loved ones manage critical decisions without important information from you?

Please join us on Friday, January 17, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. for A Lifetime Gift – a live webinar walking through important end-of-life planning decisions. The discussion will walk you through a resource book that includes checklists, important documents, life summary, medical and financial information, final wishes, and personal instructions. It’s a gift for you and your loved ones, providing guidance and peace of mind at a critical time. This FREE workshop is open to ALL ages and stages – whether you are getting your own affairs in order or caring for loved ones.

Doors open at 11:45 a.m. Lunch will be provided at 12:00 p.m. Our program will begin promptly at 12:30 p.m.

Registration is required no later than January 6 to ensure we have a workbook for you at the event!

Here is the link to register:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-lifetime-gift-at-the-shores-a-umc-community-tickets-1088607086099>

### **Corinne’s Office Hours for 2025**

Monday & Tuesday 10:00 AM-3:00 PM  
Wednesday is Corinne’s day off unless noted otherwise.  
Thursday & Friday 10:00 AM-3:00 PM

These hours will continue to be posted in the bulletin, especially for weeks that have holidays or any occasional changed or flexed days or times.

