

HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE THIS WEEK

February 16, 2025—February 23, 2025

6th Sunday of Epiphany 2/16/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum
10:15AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY 2/17/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 2/18/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 2/19/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge
6:00PM AA Book Study
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 2/20/25

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry
12:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous
6:00 AA 12-Step
7:00PM Al-Anon
7:00PM Church Council Meeting

FRIDAY 2/21/25

10:30AM Grace Stitches
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 2/22/25

7:30AM & 8:30AM Weight Watchers

7th Sunday of Epiphany 2/23/25

8:00AM Spoken Worship
8:45AM Adult Forum
10:15AM Traditional Worship
Fellowship Sponsored by Support Committee

February 16, 2025

6th Sunday After Epiphany



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ 08244
Church Office: 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

Website: www.gracelutheranspnj.org

E-mail: office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net

Interim Pastor ✝ Wendolyn Trozzo, Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant
Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

We welcome you to worship here at Grace!

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.
Our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship
red hymnal found in the pews.*

SHORE DINER

Present this bulletin on a Sunday
and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace
Lutheran Church. Present this on
any other day, and we will donate 10%.

Shore Diner
6710 Tilton Road
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234
609-641-3669

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Tues 10:00AM-3:00PM

Thurs-Fri 10:00AM-3:00PM

GATHERING

Thank you for joining us as we worship our Lord together!

Please make a nametag and write your definition of love.

INTRODUCTION

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed ones” and the “woe tos” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

WELCOME

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

PRELUDE

Pastorale

by J. S. Bach

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment or indifference. When we ignore the needs of our neighbors; when we resist your call to oppose injustice; when we give in to scarcity and fear; when we assume the worst about one another, cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ’s ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: “Do not fear, for I have

2025 GRACE CHURCH COUNCIL

OFFICERS:

President: Joe Martin

Vice President: Jim Dolan

Secretary: Chris Dennis

Treasurer: Heidi Toth

REPRESENTATIVES:

Miranda Bilello

Carol Gallagher

Diane Graham

Jayne Lare

Jorge Perez

Linda Rihl

Gay Rowland

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

Members of Grace: Debbie K., Renee P., Bettie C., Diana M., Bruce H., Bonnie C., Ruth K., Lois R., Barry L., Don B., Bob G., John S., Brenda T., Family & Friends of Lorraine Moore, Family & Friends of Dona-Lee Hughes, Family of Chris D., Bob K., Ruth B., Scott B, John N., Linda S.

Our family and friends: Eileen, Jeff, Tad, Skip (Ruth T.), Ric, Jeanne, Cody, Logan (Ruth B.), Marilyn (June J.), Catherine, Ana, Sal, Ronna, Nadine (Corinne R.), Carrie (Ray H.), Sue (Carol L.), Linda, Dana (Edna C. & Patty D.), Bruce (Brenda T.), Jody M. (Mary Ann G.), Karen H. (Mary G.), Tyler, Megan (Carol G.), Michael, Jim (Meg L.), Bridget K. & Patrick, George M.

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

The Shores at Wesley Manor: Eleanore Guire

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

Food Pantry item of the month for February is:

Condiments, especially Mayonnaise, Ketchup, & Mustard. They are also in need of spaghetti sauce and paper towels. These may be placed in the designated basket in the narthex.

The Food Pantry thanks everyone who donated cans of soup for the Souper Bowl of Caring!

Thank you to everyone who made donations for children in foster care for Bring Your Heart to Grace!

Home Reading of the Week**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN *Let Justice Flow Like Streams* **ELW #717**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE **WOV #28**

HYMN OF PRAISE **WOV #29**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Take a brief moment to share the peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

⁵ Thus says the LORD:

Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals
and make mere flesh their strength,
whose hearts turn away from the LORD.

⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert,
and shall not see when relief comes.
They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness,
in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD,
whose trust is the LORD.

⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water,
sending out its roots by the stream.
It shall not fear when heat comes,
and its leaves shall stay green;
in the year of drought it is not anxious,
and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else;
it is perverse—
who can understand it?

¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind
and search the heart,
to give to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their doings.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 1 (*read responsively*)

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel¹ of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats¹ of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law¹ of the LORD,
and they meditate on God's teaching¹ day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due
season, with leaves that¹ do not wither;
everything they¹ do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so¹ with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind¹ blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when¹ judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council¹ of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way¹ of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall¹ be destroyed.**

SENDING

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with
compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Let Streams of Living Justice

ELW #710

*Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music.
and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.*

POSTLUDE

Canticle of Joy

by J. S. Bach

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

*We are glad for your presence today.
We hope you come again soon!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today:
Worship Assistant: Kevin Thomas**



**The flowers sponsor this week is: Mary Goodman,
“Happy heavenly birthday, Ron.”
Love, Mary**

The candles and bulletins sponsor is: Clare Brick.

*Special thank you to organist H. Ray Hunsicker for
leading our music!*

kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lamb of God

WOV #39

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVERYONE IS INVITED to receive Holy Communion. The ushers will invite worshippers forward to fill the altar railings. Once you have received the wafer and the red wine/white grape juice, place your empty cup in the tray and return to your pew. As places open up, worshippers will fill them in so that communion is a continuous process. If you do not wish to receive communion, or are worshipping with children who have not had First Communion, we welcome you to come forward for a blessing; as you kneel at the railing, cross your arms over your chest to show your preference to the pastor.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 6th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

¹⁷ [Jesus] came down with [the twelve] and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you,
revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice in that
day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is
what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors
did to the false prophets.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Wendolyn Trozzo

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life* **ELW #719**
VERSES 1-4

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was
conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under
Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the
dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is
seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the
living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Please be seated.

OFFERING

Slumber Song

by J. S. Bach

OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS *Let the Vineyards be Fruitful* **WOV #35**

OFFERING PRAYER

**God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your
abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your
service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with
gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the
church, the world, and all of creation. *Brief silence.*

*At the end of each prayer petition when the worship assistant or
pastor says, “God of grace,” please respond with “hear our prayer.”*

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope
that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and
praise.**

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

WOV #36

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Together, we pray as our Lord taught us, saying:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy