

Grace Lutheran Church
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Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Messenger April-May 2025

From the Pastor's desk...

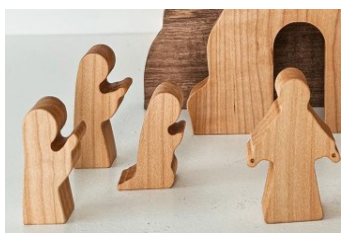
A few years ago, I used this lovely "Easter Creche" to teach the story of Easter at an Egg Hunt with many unchurched families.

It was a lot of fun. First I introduced Jesus, and how he healed people and how people would be so amazed that they would fall down on their knees. I told them about how Jesus made a lot of people mad, and then I would hold the Jesus in front of the cross, and then hide him in the tomb and put the brown stone over the door. Pretty soon we got to my favorite part - when the women went to pray and Jesus was alive!



But even pastors get surprised by Easter. When I asked the kids if the women were reaching out to touch Jesus, to see if he was really alive, the kids knew better.

"They're taking pictures with their cellphones! They're sending them to everybody!"



And I think that might have been the best response - just like the women ran to tell the disciples, these kids saw GOOD NEWS to share with everybody! Easter goes everywhere we

Staff at Grace

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

Joseph Martin, Church Council President
Jim Dolan, Church Council Vice President
Chris Dennis, Church Council Secretary
Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

are. Into our hearts, into our cars, into our phones, into our friendships, into our lives! The story of Easter is a story for all of us, in all times and places.

May your Holy Week be one of cherishing stories and sharing them.

Peace in Christ,
Pastor Wendolyn

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 13

8:00 AM Spoken Worship
10:15 AM Traditional Worship with Choir

In lieu of palm branches, all who attend are welcome and encouraged to bring a branch from a plant from home! We will have palms on hand for anyone who is unable to bring something from home.

4:00 PM Egg Hunt & Holy Story

Maundy Thursday, April 17

12:00 PM Grace Lutheran Church: Stripping of the Altar
7:00 PM St. John (Ocean City)

Good Friday, April 18

12:00 PM St. John - Ocean City Boardwalk: Stations of the Cross
7:00 PM Grace Lutheran Church: "The Weeping Tree" Cantata
with congregation participation

Easter Sunday, April 20

8:00 AM Spoken Worship
10:15 AM Traditional Worship with Choir



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

The Grief Support Group will resume on **Monday, April 7 at 6:30 PM in the lounge, and will continue on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month.** All who are grieving the loss of a family member, friend, pet, job, etc. are welcome and encouraged to attend. You do not have to go through this alone. Meet with others who are on this difficult journey, share your stories, discuss and share resources and coping strategies, and support each other.



WELCA

19th ANNUAL BABY SHOWER
for **Shore Memorial NICU**
will be hosted by **WELCA** and the **Stitchers of Grace Lutheran Church**



along with our brothers and sisters from Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon
Friday, May 16th at 12:00 PM
Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
Lunch will be served for Shore Medical Center nurses and guests.

Donations needed: New clothing (preemie-2T),
diapers, knitted and crocheted clothing and blankets
Deadline for donations: Sunday, May 11th
Please R.S.V.P. to Roberta Blumenthal 609-927-1654 or the
Church Office 609-927-3082.

Up-Coming Events

Thursday Lenten Bread & Broth
6:00 PM Potluck Dinner & Fellowship Followed by Short Worship Service:

April 3 (Grace, S.P.), **April 10** (St. John's, O.C.)
Sign-up to bring food April 3 in the narthex on Sunday or by calling the
church office.

Saturday, April 5 at 10:00 AM the NJ State WELCA is having their bi-annual
gathering at St. John in Ocean City.

Lunch will follow the worship service and workshop on prayer.
Please RSVP to St. John 609-399-0798.

Egg Hunt & Holy Story– Sunday, April 13 at 4:00 PM
for children ages 2-12

19th Annual Baby Shower for Shore Memorial NICU– May 16 at 12:00 PM

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. 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)

April Worship Assistants:

4/6 Edna Cordery
4/13 June Jordan
4/20 Kevin Thomas
4/27 James Ehrhardt

May Worship Assistants:

5/4 Ruth Bowden
5/11 Shirley B./Corinne R.
5/18 Meg Markkanen
5/25 Meg La Spina

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We will have Sunday School here at Grace during our 10:15 AM worship. We are testing this out during Easter Season April 27 - June 1. We are in need of volunteers. Please visit this link to sign up to help!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054CAEAE2AA6F9C52-55863831-7weeks>

Please spread the word and invite any young people you know!

GRACE PLACE FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The recent federal government actions have resulted in interruptions to the supply chain that provides food to the Grace Place Pantry. The Food Bank of South Jersey has had staff cuts and are no longer receiving the amount of goods they have in the past which limits what they can send to Grace Place.

The pantry has had an increase in the number of clients we serve as reported in the annual report to the congregation. Grace has been very generous in the support of Grace Place but your help is needed to keep the operation viable.

Below is a list of suggested items for the pantry's current needs:

Spaghetti Sauce
Mayonnaise
Mustard
Coffee
Breakfast Cereal
Paper towels
Jelly

Brownie Mix
Crackers
Can Chicken
Toothpaste
Toothbrush
Shampoo and conditioner

Your continued support is greatly appreciated!

UPDATE ON FACILITIES PROJECTS

As many of you have already noticed, work has been done in the Social Hall. A partition was built to conceal some of the folding tables that are stored on carts. We had to organize the double-door storage area that we used for tables and chairs.

There is a mandate to have clear access to the door leading to the attic above the bathrooms. We also have a piano tucked in that area that has not been used in a long while. If anyone in the congregation is interested or knows someone interested in it, please let someone from the facilities know. Also, on our “cleaning house” list is at least 6 heavy folding tables we would like to remove from our attic and lastly 4 large recycling cans we no longer need now that we have a rolling dumpster for cardboard and other recyclables.

Up-coming projects on our list are to install the electric card reader type locks on the main office door, pastor’s office and finance (counter’s) office. These will be similar to the existing entry door giving access with a card or FOB. These new locks will improve safety and security to our staff and the many volunteers who help run our church on a daily basis. We plan to have our upper kitchen cabinets installed and painting completed by late April.

Happy Birthday

April

4/1 Miranda Bilello
4/5 Gary Schafer
4/9 Mary Goodman
4/11 Zavier Shea
4/13 Debra Kleuser
4/14 Dorothea Kyle
4/16 Carol Spatz
4/19 Wendy Dolan
4/19 Keith Hoelker
4/24 Sue Johnson
4/25 Jean Levine

May

5/1 Matthew Bilello
5/1 Jayne Lare
5/2 Shirley Blankenship
5/3 Michael Berenotto, Sr.
5/5 Melissa Kleva
5/7 John Miller
5/10 Carol Dotts
5/11 Dale Kredatus
5/15 Carol Gallagher
5/17 Charles Young
5/18 Judith Hoffert
5/23 Linda Savage
5/24 Michael La Spina
5/26 Ruth Traa
5/28 Laura Siteman
5/31 Margaret Groves

HAPPY Anniversary!

April

4/5 Mary Lou & Donald Brown
4/8 Edna & Jim Cordery
4/25 Inger & Michael Reynolds

May

5/1 Kathi & Richard Krattenmaker
5/12 Lillian & Charles Young
5/21 Chris Dennis & Stephen Ferguson

Are we missing your birthday or anniversary or do we have it wrong? If so, please call the church office (609-927-3082) and let us know so we can update your information.