

Grace Lutheran Church
11 East Dawes Avenue
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Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Messenger April-May 2026

From the Pastor's desk...

It's finally that time of year when crocuses and daffodils are popping open! It seems as though I can measure their leaves growing every time I look at them. Especially given the snow this winter, it feels like they've been waiting to greet us. The green of their leaves is a promise of the flowers whose colors we will soon see.



Bulbs tell us the whole story of Scripture because they are “already, but not yet.” In the fall, when we plant them, they have already been created by God, the master gardener. We hold them in our hands, knowing the arc their story will take. We can imagine the flowers that they will become, because we've “already” either experienced the circling seasons before or because someone else has told us what to expect.

But in the fall, and winter, and early spring, the flowers are “not yet” here. They're buried in ground that becomes cold and hard; covered with dirt and mulch and leaves and frost and snow and many things that seem like barriers to life. We say goodbye to them in the fall; we hope and we expect and we wait, but until those leaves unfold and the flowers open, they are still “not yet” beautiful blooms.

This is the Holy Week story – of Jesus who has already died for us, of that in-between time when we have not yet seen him raised. And it is the story of our

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
Jayne Lare & Linda Rihl, Church Council Secretaries
Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

faith, where God has already given us life and promises and loved ones and a precious story, but we are not yet in paradise with God. We believe but cannot see. We know and yet we wait. We watch and hope.

Growing up, our neighbor was a pastor, so we kids knew God's love, and we knew Bible stories, and when our pets died, we had funeral services. One autumn, a boy's rabbit died, and we had our funeral service in his yard. What we didn't realize was that his family also planted bulbs around that time. When springtime came and the bulbs sprouted through the cold, hard ground, there was Drew: looking for the bunnies! His little boy brain had put together the bulbs, the bunny, and the resurrection. An Easter bunny indeed.

Of course, the pastor then had to teach us kids about "already/not yet." God's promises are already good – shown by Jesus' new life. But our world is still waiting for the fullness of resurrection to transform our world into the new Eden, a paradise where there will be room enough for all and we will be with our loved ones and have no obstacles to seeing God's love and goodness. We live in the in-between time: seeing the brokenness of the world and believing the promises buried in Good Friday, but not yet at Easter dawn. I call it the "Sadder-day" and it's a metaphor for these days or these centuries.

I invite you to watch these bulbs with me, and to pray us through these "Sadder-days." I also invite you to worship with us this Holy week, seeing together these signs of hope!

In Christ,

Pastor Wendolyn



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29

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

Maundy Thursday, April 2

7:00 PM Grace Lutheran Church: Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday, April 3

7:00 PM Grace Lutheran Church: Wrapping the Cross with
Congregation Participation

Easter Sunday, April 5

10:15 AM Traditional Worship with Choir

Come and meet the Pastoral Candidate for Grace Lutheran Church!

Saturday, April 11 at 5 P.M.:

Meet & Greet Italian Dinner

In the Grace Lutheran Church Social Hall

We need a head count for dinner planning. Please let us know as soon as possible if you can come by emailing or calling the church office, if you have not yet done so.

We will also be collecting food items for our Grace Place Food Pantry, as this was found to be of particular interest to our candidate.

Sunday, April 12 at 10:15 A.M.:

The Pastoral Candidate will lead and preach at our worship service.

This will be followed by a Congregational Meeting to take a vote.

Your attendance is extremely important!

WELCA

20th ANNUAL BABY SHOWER for Shore Memorial NICU

**will be hosted by the Stitchers and WELCA of
Grace Lutheran Church
along with our brothers and sisters from
Reformation Lutheran Church, Absecon**

Friday, May 15th 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 10th

Please R.S.V.P. to Roberta Blumenthal 609-927-1654 or the
Church Office 609-927-3082.



Sponsorships for Altar Flowers and Other Worship Items

The 2026 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:

4/5 Edna Cordery
4/12 June Jordan
4/19 Kevin Thomas
4/26 James Ehrhardt

May Worship Assistants:

5/3 Corinne Rhodes
5/10 Shirley Blankenship
5/17 Meg Markkanen
5/24 Meg La Spina
5/31 Stephen Gring

Happy Birthday

April

4/1 Miranda Bilello
4/5 Gary Schafer
4/9 Mary Goodman
4/11 Zavier Dennis
4/13 Debra Kleuser
4/14 Dorothea Kyle
4/16 Carol Spatz
4/17 Leigh Goff
4/19 Wendy Dolan
4/19 Keith Hoelker
4/24 Sue Johnson
4/25 Jean Levine
4/26 Eric Horrox

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
5/27 Tony Berenotto
5/28 Larua Siteman

HAPPY Anniversary!

April

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

May

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

