Grace Lutheran Church
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Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Holiday Messenger
December 2026

A Note from the Pastor's Desk…

Advent is my favorite time of the year. I love preparing for the birth of Jesus with decorations, generosity, and of course, buying gifts for my loved ones. I love the Advent color of blue. I love the tradition of lighting candles on an Advent wreath each Sunday. I love the visual of time progressing toward Christmas.

This year at Grace will be both new and exciting as we celebrate together for the first time. I'm looking forward to decorating our worship space together. I can't wait to open the doors to the community for Cookies, Crafts & Christmas Cheer. And most importantly, I am excited to celebrate the birth of our Savior on Christmas Eve, the most holy night of the year.

I know having a new pastor means new traditions and practices. It's my hope that together we remember the most important thing about Advent and Christmas, the love of God for us. God's love for us is bigger than we could ever imagine. God's love is so big God decided to become human. The words "and God became flesh and lived among us" demonstrate God's enormous love for all humanity. For me, that's the best news of Christmas, the incarnation. May we celebrate Christ's birth with joy and proclaim it to the world in 2027 and the years to come.

Staff at Grace

Rev. Elizabeth Frey, Pastor
Scott J. Breiner, Music Director
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant
Heidi Toth, Church Treasurer

Joseph Martin, Church Council President
Jim Dolan, Church Council Vice President
Jayne Lare & Linda Rihl, Church Council Secretaries
Sandy Piskun, Financial Secretary

WELCA

Remember to put 12 dimes in your red stocking at the beginning of December. Please turn in your red stocking with your dimes/donation by the end of December.

WELCA is collecting hats, earmuffs, gloves, and mittens again this year to be given to a local elementary school in January for children who lose these items or simply don't have them. There is a basket in the narthex for these donations and the deadline is January 12. Your donations are very much appreciated!

The WELCA Holiday Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 8 at Shore Diner at 12:00 Noon. Anyone is welcome to attend. Please consider bringing a $10 gift card from a place of your choice if you wish to participate in the gift exchange.

Sponsorships for Altar Flowers and Other Worship Items

The 2026 and 2027 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 ($35), Candles ($10), Wine ($10),
Bulletins ($15), Music ($50), and Messenger ($50)

Worship Assistants for the remainder of the 2026 year:

11/22 Ruth Bowden
11/29 Mary Ann Gring
12/6 Edna Cordery
12/13 Advent Lessons & Carols-Assigned Readers
12/20 Kevin Thomas
12/27 Corinne Rhodes

Grace Place Food Pantry

November & December 2026 Updates

Grace Place Food Pantry continues to provide food to our neighbors in need who live in the communities of Northfield, Linwood and Somers Point!

We are now very busy preparing for our Holiday Basket distributions (Thanksgiving and Christmas), which are always a large undertaking. 2026 has been challenging, to say the least. We continue to see an increase in people dealing with food insecurity. We do receive a monthly delivery from the Community Food Bank located in Egg Harbor Township; however, they are experiencing changes in what they receive and that does trickle down! I place an order monthly but not all requested items are received. We also shop weekly to supplement what we can offer!

Grace Place is fortunate in that we receive support by way of cash donations or food items from area churches, businesses, various organizations and generous individuals!

Just a reminder - our local ShopRite and Acme stores offer a free turkey should you spend a certain amount of money. If you do qualify for a turkey but are not planning to use it, please consider donating it to *Grace Place*. We would be very appreciative!

In closing, we are very grateful to everyone for their support! We are truly blessed!

Happy Holidays,
Jim Cordery, Director, *Grace Place* Food Pantry

SAVE THE DATES

Informational Meeting on Building Security
This meeting will take place on Sunday, December 13, 2026
immediately following 10:15 Worship.

Annual Congregational Meeting
This meeting will take place on Sunday, January 31, 2027
immediately following 10:15 Worship.

UP-COMING ACTIVITES & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

November 22: Christ the King Sunday - 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM Worship
Family Deck the Halls following 10:15 AM Worship

November 29: 1st Sunday in Advent - 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM Worship

December 6: 2nd Sunday in Advent - 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM Worship
First Sunday Fellowship following 10:15 AM Worship
Cape Shore Chorale Christmas Concert – 3:00 PM
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Ocean City

December 12: Cookies, Crafts & Christmas Cheer- 10:00AM-Noon

December 13: 3rd Sunday in Advent - 10:15 AM Advent Lessons & Carols
(No 8:00 AM Worship)
Informational Meeting following 10:15 AM Worship

December 20: 4th Sunday in Advent - 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM Worship

December 21: Blue Christmas Service - 6:30 PM

December 24: Christmas Eve Children & Family Service - 4:00 PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Choir - 6:00 PM
Communion will be served at both Christmas Eve services.
The 6:00 PM service will be livestreamed.

December 27: 1st Sunday of Christmas - 10:00 AM Scripture Readings & Carols
(No 8:00 AM Worship)



December		January	
12/4	Adalynn Bilello	1/7	Robin Johnson
12/7	Kathleen Engelman	1/7	Heidi Toth
12/8	Jim Merce	1/10	Kathi Krattenmaker
12/9	Holly Henry	1/10	Ruth Kruger
12/10	Elizabeth Hoelter	1/14	Linda Rihl
12/13	Chris Dennis	1/18	Bernie Somers
12/13	Erica Johnson	1/18	Meredith Henry
12/15	Ruth Bowden	1/23	Sherril Kleuser
12/24	Herbert Kreuz	1/25	Dick Fetter
12/25	Eddie Thompson	1/28	Stephen Gring
12/28	Inger Reynolds	1/28	Brenda Traa
		1/30	Diedre Kreuz
		1/31	Rich Krattenmaker



12/2	Diedre & Herbert Kreuz
12/21	Collette & John Bradley