

Grace Lutheran Church  
11 East Dawes Avenue  
Somers Point, NJ 08244  
[www.gracelutheranspnj.org](http://www.gracelutheranspnj.org)

Church Office: 609-927-3082  
[office@gracelutheranspnj.com](mailto:office@gracelutheranspnj.com)  
Food Pantry: 609-927-9982  
Pastor Email: [pastoralthea3@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralthea3@gmail.com)

## Grace Messenger

### September - December 2023

#### A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Autumn Greetings to all of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

I hope you are all doing well and that you had a great summer! God has been present with us throughout the summer and the Holy Spirit will be among us whenever we gather in worship and fellowship this fall!

Construction has been going well throughout the last few months. Corinne and I are looking forward to making the new office our home before we know it! We have also been blessed with a new printer and copier!

Multiple studies in both the field of medicine and psychology show that prayer does wonders for our physical and mental health. Prayer is also essential to our spiritual health!

This summer, I had multiple experiences where I knew that God heard prayers which I lifted up for others. Some answers came quickly and others took months. For some of us, it is easy to lose heart at times when we are desperate to know God is listening.

*Pastor's article is continued on the next page...*



#### STAFF AT GRACE

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor  
Scott J. Breiner, Music Director  
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant  
Heidi Toth, Church Treasurer  
Sandy Piskun, Ruth Bowden, Jill Welfield, Financial Secretaries

Stephen Gring, Church Council President  
Mary Goodman, Church Council Vice President  
Kevin Thomas, Church Council Secretary  
Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

God is certainly listening! I will also remind you of an excerpt from one of our scriptures this summer -Romans 8:24-28:

*“For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.”*

The Holy Spirit helps God to hear our needs even when we cannot speak. God hears our innermost thoughts, our quiet longings, our grief and our joys. I hope that no matter what you go through in the months ahead, that you will find peace in knowing that God is always listening, Jesus is always beside us, and the Holy Spirit is around to guide us.

Blessings to all! See you in church!

*May the peace of the Lord be with you always!*

*Pastor Allthea*



## **OUR MINISTRY TOGETHER IN 2023**

### **The Council Corner** by Stephen Gring, Council President

Our Congregational Council and Financial Support Teams took a break for the months of July and August. Look for updates in our next edition of Grace Messenger this winter.



Our Dream Team along with our 100th Anniversary Committee are planning an Oktoberfest which will be held at Grace Lutheran Church on

**Friday, September 29, 2023 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM**

This event will feature German food, dessert, beer and wine with valid ID, non alcoholic beverages, live music, and dancing. Tickets are now on sale: Adults-\$30/\$35 at the door, Youth (ages 6-12) \$15, and Children (ages 5 and under) free. You won't want to miss this fun event! Most of the proceeds will go to the 100th Anniversary Committee to help defray cost of upcoming events as we celebrate 100 years of ministry and community outreach.

### **Announcements**

Please be advised that our Financial Support Team, Church Council, WELCA, and Antique Club will resume regular monthly meetings starting this month:

**WELCA: 9/12 at 12PM**

**Financial Support: 9/13 at 7PM**

**Church Council: 9/19 at 7PM**

**Antique Club 9/14 at 7PM**

**NEW STAFF**—We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newly hired Social Media Consultant, Alison Toth! You can now find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!

## GRACE PLACE FOOD PANTRY

Grace Place Food Pantry has had a busy summer! We have seen an uptick in the number of people using our pantry. We are very fortunate to receive donations from various organizations and generous individuals on an almost weekly basis which helps to supplement what we receive from the Community Food Bank of New Jersey!

People ask “what can I donate?” We can always use pasta, rice and pasta sides, mashed potatoes, cereal, oatmeal packets, Chef Boyardee, canned Tuna, canned fruit and vegetables, Granola Bars, condiments (mayo, ketchup, mustard), toilet paper, soap, toothbrushes/toothpaste and napkins. Please be mindful that **we cannot accept any food products that have expired or outdated dates or any items that have already been opened.**

September is the beginning of our busy season! As many of you are aware, Grace Place offers Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets to our patrons. Each basket contains the fixings for a holiday meal complete with a turkey and/or ham. This takes a great deal of preparation, planning what goes into the baskets and advance shopping – and then we have to assemble the bags! During this time we continue to meet our patrons’ weekly food needs. This really is a total community effort!

Grace Place Food Pantry is open Monday – Thursday 9:00 - 11:30 a.m., and is closed the **first FULL** week of each month. Donations may be dropped off at the Food Pantry during their hours of operation or at the church office during regular office hours.

Our sincere thanks to all,

Jim Cordery, Director

## CHURCH DIRECTORY 2023

We have started gathering and taking pictures for our church directory. We still have 2 dates available for picture-taking: September 17 and October 1. If you would like to have your picture taken and have not yet done so, please contact the church office so we can sign you up for an available date and time. You may also submit a nice family photo to the following email address:

[gracelutheranmedia24@gmail.com](mailto:gracelutheranmedia24@gmail.com) . You may also bring a photo to the office.

## WORSHIP SPONSORSHIPS:

FLOWERS, CANDLES, WINE, BULLETINS,  
MUSIC



### September

9/3 Flowers: Brenda Traa

9/10 Flowers: Roberta Blumenthal, Candles/  
Wine/Bulletins: Betti Cross, Music: Linda Rihl

9/17 Flowers: Clare Brick

9/24 Flowers: Kathy Nigsch, Candles/Wine/  
Bulletins: Betti Cross

### November

11/5 OPEN

11/12 Flowers: Roberta Blumenthal

11/19 Flowers: Mary Goodman

11/26 OPEN

### October

10/1 OPEN

10/8 OPEN

10/15 Flowers: Roberta Blumenthal

10/22 Flowers: Dr. & Mrs. R. Carlson

10/29 Music: John Staples

### December

12/3 Flowers: Kathy Nigsch

12/10 OPEN

12/17 OPEN

12/24 Music: Brenda Traa



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## WORSHIP ASSISTANT SCHEDULE

### September

9/3 Ruth Bowden

9/10 June Jordan

9/17 Mary Ann Gring

9/24 Meg La Spina

### November

11/5 Ruth Bowden

11/12 June Jordan

11/19 Kevin Thomas

11/26 Mary Ann Gring

### October

10/1 Edna Cordery

10/8 Corinne Rhodes

10/15 Meg Markkanen

10/22 Shilrey Blankenship

10/29 Meg La Spina

### December

12/3 Edna Cordery

12/10 Corinne Rhodes

12/17 Meg Markkanen

12/24

12/31 Stephen Gring



## Upcoming Birthdays



### **September**

9/2 Pastor Althea Albright  
9/6 Jorge Perez  
9/7 Pam Mele  
9/8 Norm Thinschmidt  
9/8 Alex Piskun  
9/10 Karleigh Cannizzaro  
9/17 Michael Piskun  
9/20 Mary Ellen Bartholomew  
9/22 Carol Landes  
9/22 Lauren Piskun  
9/25 Jason Berenotto  
9/29 Edna Cordery

### **November**

11/6 Stephen Ferguson  
11/7 Patricia Ogrodnek  
11/9 Kevin Thomas  
11/19 Scott Breiner  
11/19 Walt Foerst  
11/22 Barbara Hendrix  
11/22 Gail Rink  
11/28 Mary Ann Gring  
11/28 Michael Piskun, Jr

### **October**

10/4 David Condliff  
10/10 Greg Goff  
10/15 Corinne Rhodes  
10/16 Roberta Blumenthal  
10/18 Bobby Grant  
10/19 Joyce Bianco  
10/23 Vickie Costello  
10/26 Ellie Hull  
10/27 Joe Ruffenach  
10/27 Karl Suckiel  
10/27 Phyllis Phelps

### **December**

12/2 Fritz Foster  
12/9 Holly Henry  
12/10 Elizabeth Hoelter  
12/11 Bob Grant  
12/13 Erica Johnson  
12/15 Ruth Bowden  
12/17 Amanda Cannizzaro  
12/17 Marlene Doerr  
12/21 Else A. Fetter  
12/27 Marleigh Cannizzaro  
12/28 Inger-Anne Carlson  
12/31 Robert Bartholomew



# Upcoming Anniversaries



## September

9/8 Johanna & Bob Reilly

9/11 Sue & Bernie Somers

9/27 Donna & Mike Berenotto

## October

10/9 Mary Ellen & Robert Bartholomew

## November

11/13 Patty & John Dunn

11/18 Mary Ann & Stephen Gring

11/18 Aud & Karl Suckiel

11/24 Donna & Joe Martin

11/27 Linda & Frank Corradetti

11/27 Elizabeth & Bruce Hoelter

## **COOKIE WALK**

**Saturday, December 9, 2023**

9:00 AM-12:00 PM or until sold out

Start gathering your favorite holiday cookie recipes, stocking up on those ingredients, and getting ready to bake, bake, bake! We need cookies galore!



If you have any Christmas items you no longer need or want, you may donate them to be sold at the white elephant table at the Cookie Walk.

## Renovations Update



Our office renovations are well under way! The new electrical work has been put in place. New walls and baseboards have been installed, as well as a new door to Pastor's office. Doors have been stained. The work continues! We have also ordered and received an upgraded copier/printer, so we can resume functional work in the temporary office. Look also for a new stove/oven and dishwasher in the upstairs kitchen! Thank you to Karl and his team of contractors, as well as the members of our Facilities Team, who have been working hard on this project!

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## PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your daily prayers:

**Members of Grace:** Debbie K., Renee P., Carole T., Bettie C., Bob C., Joe M.

**Our family and friends:** Eileen, Jeff (Ruth T.), Stephanie B., Eleanor (Roberta B.), Marilyn, Margie, Glenn & Deb, Ric (Ruth B.), Rinata, Patti R. (Clare B.), Bob, Kim (Jim F.), Michal Ann, Savannah, Houston (June J.), Shirley (Debbie K.), Bob, Bill, Lou (Dale K.), Jim, Elliot (Meg L.), Tim (Diana M.), Karen (Renee P.), Catherine, Sal, Ana, Mark (Corinne R.), Karen (Sue R.), Bob (Brenda T.), Joan, Harry (Jill W.), Rob, Dorrie, Patti (Marlene D.), Carrie (Ray H.), Duncan (Eddie T.), Bruce (Elizabeth H.), Rachel (Pastor Althea), Louis, Louis (Chris)

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

**Our members at home:** Bonnie Condliff, Joan Glenz, Ruth Kruger, Lois Reardon

**Villa Raffaella:** Barbara Johnson **Woodview Estates:** Lorraine Moore

**The Shores at Wesley Manor:** Eleanore Guire

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