

Grace Lutheran Church  
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## Messenger

### June - July 2025

#### From the Pastor's desk...

##### "Best Sunday Morning Question"

One of our professors in seminary (the school that trains pastors) was in a Church job where he didn't have to be at Church every Sunday. He told us about his Sunday mornings - how he would wake up and think, "Should I go to Church today?" He was as human as the rest of us, and lots of questions would crowd his mind: Wouldn't it be nice to sleep in? What if the music wasn't his style? Maybe he could stay home and cook brunch. Or, would there be good food at coffee hour?

But he still found his way to Church each Sunday.

How? He told us his secret.

When those other questions poured in, he would ask himself this:

"Is God good?"

And the answer, to him, was always YES. So, because God is good, he found himself wanting (more than anything, even more than sleep or brunch) to worship God. To say thank you. To hear the Word about this God. To join with other people in praise. To pray with other people for a world in need. To turn worship into service, finding more opportunities to love his neighbor.

Now, I know that we have questions about God's goodness. The world is messed up. People of faith are messed up too. Why hasn't God fixed it all? I honor those questions and the pain in them. And, I also know that even when things aren't good, God still is. Sometimes mysteriously so, but usually good in ways that are evident. I don't have to look far to find something to say thank you for. I don't have to look far to see a neighbor who God wants me to love. And for these, we need worship to inspire and sustain us.

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#### 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

So...when you need to do a hard thing like get to Church, when you'd rather cozy up at home, or a hard thing like practicing spiritual health, or a hard thing like figuring out your priorities for the week ahead, ask that question. Is God good? My bet is that your "yes" will give you momentum. Then come, worship, and tell others what brought you. And as you look at the summer weeks ahead, don't 'plan a vacation from Church.' God is good wherever you go. Worship, love, serve and live in the light of our very Good God.

In Christ, Pastor Wendolyn

### **Sunday, June 1: Welcome the Civil Air Patrol to Grace!**

At worship on June 1, we will be hosting our local Civil Air Patrol cadets and senior members at worship. 1st Lt Christopher Johnson, son of Al and Robin, is the Commander of the Atlantic Composite squadron and will be sharing the sermon time with Pastor Wendolyn and some cadets!

~ Our Joyful Noise offering for June is our local Civil Air Patrol! ~

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a volunteer auxiliary of the US Air Force, with cadets from ages 12-20, which does amazing things in aerospace education, emergency services, character/leadership development, and volunteer service. Fun and faithful fact: Civil Air Patrol conducts 90% of inland search and rescue in the U.S.!

We also recognize our congregation's contribution to our state CAP Wing as our Council has approved 1/2 week of Pastor Wendolyn's time this summer to attend the Basic Encampment as an adult volunteer, in her role as a CAP Chaplain. Cadet encampment is similar to boot camp and includes everything from 5am wake-ups to getting to fly a plane alongside experienced instructors. Pastor will be available by phone during encampment July 20-27 at Joint Base MDL, for any urgent needs of the congregation.



3 Lutheran youth receiving awards - Cadet CMSgt A. Dennis, Cadet of the Month, Air Victory Squadron; Cadet 1st Lt H. Kutalek, Willa Brown Achievement; Cadet 2d Lt Caedmon Trozzo, Billy Mitchell Award



Captain (Chaplain) Wendolyn Trozzo  
at a workshop on drug-free living

### **Prayers for our Synod in Transition**

Bishop Tracie Bartholomew, a daughter of our congregation and current Bishop of the New Jersey Synod of the ELCA, has completed another 6-year term as our Bishop and decided to step down. Our Synod Assembly will be electing a new bishop at its annual meeting on June 5-7. Please pray for those who are voting and for all leadership of our Synod!

Curious about the election process? Watch the movie Conclave. Except for the extreme secrecy, our election process is very similar, though of course we expect less drama and far more ordinary clothes!

**Social Event: Tasting Tour of  
Hammonton with Pastor Wendolyn  
Sunday, June 22, noon-4pm**

Come see some of Pastor's favorite places! We'll have a sandwich lunch at Church after worship at 11:30 and leave Grace at noon. First stop is "**Tales of the Olive**" where you can taste 20 different kinds of olive oil. Next we will rest our palates and drop by an **antique** flea market (you can go for ice cream instead if you want!). Then we will enjoy **Bagliani's Italian market**, and perhaps you can pick out cheese or olives for charcuterie to enjoy at our final stop, **Plagido's Winery**. The Winery has tastings and flights, but if you don't drink you're in luck because they have hot pretzels, a chocolate flight, or a charcuterie tray. If you do imbibe, we can sit and chat until you're 100% clear to drive – Plagido's is gorgeous inside and out and Pastor will love having time with you!

There is no cost to this event but you may find yourself supporting local businesses along the way! **RSVPs are required** but easily changed – please email Pastor at [wend-ofish@gmail.com](mailto:wend-ofish@gmail.com) or text her (cell number is in the directory or call the Church office).

**PENTECOST SUNDAY, JUNE 8**

Be sure to pick up your "Spirited Summer" Gift Packet! This is a gift from Pastor Wendolyn to bless your summer!

**RETIREMENT PARTY FOR BISHOP TRACIE BARTHOLOMEW**

**Join us Sunday, the 29th of June**

**5:00PM to 10:00PM**

Hyatt Regency Princeton

102 Carnegie Center, Princeton, NJ 08540

Dinner and Cash Bar

Program and Lots of Dancing

*Music by The Urban Guerilla Orchestra and DJ Ol Skool*

Tickets are \$50 per person.

A hotel room block has been set aside for

Sunday, June 29 through Monday, June 30.

The booking link to make a hotel reservation is:

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/PRINC/G-ELCA>

or call Central Reservations Department, (877) 803-7534  
and mention the NJ Synod room block.

**REGISTER NOW!**

## **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

The Grief Support Group meets every **1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 PM in the lounge**. 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.

## **GRACE STITCHERS & WELCA**



The Annual Shore Memorial NICU Baby Shower sponsored by the Grace Stitchers and WELCA and our brothers and sisters from Reformation Lutheran Church in Absecon was a huge success! Thank you to all who volunteered and donated items for this wonderful event!



## **STEWARDSHIP CONVERSATION/BRAINSTORM**

**Thursday, June 19: 5:00-6:30 PM**

All are invited to this wonderful, powerful, and loving way to care for our congregation!

## **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)



### June Worship Assistants:

6/1 Edna Cordery  
6/15 Kevin Thomas  
6/22 James Ehrhardt  
6/29 Stephen Gring

### July Worship Assistants:

7/6 Ruth Bowden  
7/13 Shirley B./Corinne R.  
7/20 Meg Markkanen  
7/27 Meg La Spina

### CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

#### Save the date!

The Call Committee would like you to join them **Sunday June 22nd during the Adult Forum at 8:45am** for a light breakfast. This will provide an opportunity to discuss the Pastoral Call Process and the committee's responsibilities as faithful representatives of the congregation.

### GRACE PLACE FOOD PANTRY

is expecting a large delivery from St. Joe's food drive and needs some helping hands!

SATURDAY, JUNE 21 AT 10 AM

**If anyone has any children or grandchildren interested in Vacation Bible School this summer...**



# Happy Birthday

## June

6/2	Linda Rothermel
6/3	Frank Corradetti
6/3	Douglas Siteman
6/3	Kristin Wolak
6/5	Katrina Flamm
6/6	Bettie Cross
6/9	Robin Bitzberger
6/11	Mary Ellen Foster
6/19	Walter Foerst
6/21	Dante Trozzo
6/22	June Jordan
6/23	Jim Foreman
6/23	Pag Stasuk
6/24	Sara Blumentahl
6/26	John Staples
6/28	Donna Martin

## July

7/2	Meg Markkanen
7/2	Vernon Ogrodnek
7/13	John Neupauer
7/15	Jim Dolan
7/17	Michael Reynolds
7/19	Donna Berenotto
7/24	Michelle Kleuser
7/26	Lillian Young
7/27	Nathan Bilello
7/27	Zander Bilello
7/29	Diane Graham

# HAPPY Anniversary!

## June

6/4	Holly & Meredith Henry
6/8	Corinne & Scott Rhodes
6/9	Sandy & Mike Piskun
6/22	Sharon & Jim Ehrhardt

## July

7/1	Robin & Al Johnson
7/6	Wendy & Jim Dolan
7/31	Laura & Douglas Siteman

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.