

Grace Lutheran Church  
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Somers Point, NJ 08244  
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Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

## Messenger February-March 2026

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, February 1, 2026 following the 10:15 AM Worship Service. If you are unable to attend in person, please join us on YouTube or the livestream link on our website: [www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org](http://www.GraceLutheranSPNJ.org).

Extra meeting packets will be available in the church office. Please stop by the church office to pick one up if you are unable to attend in person.

The names of the 2026 Grace Church Council officers and representatives will be printed in the bulletin on the following Sunday.

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

Eagles fans – I'm with you. We had our hopes set on the Super Bowl. To come so close was a wild ride but one that ended in heartbreak. It's tough to be a sports fan and wear your heart, literally, on your sleeve!

As the Church, there might be something we should be learning from playoff sports. One: your passion will shine through, and two: it might bring others along for the ride. Philly area fans are especially



### 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

known for their passion! A sea of “midnight green” can be seen across our area and it brings people together, giving them a point of instant connection. Seeing the logo tells you someone’s identity as it was handed down to them and their choices to pick up their fan gear as they head out their door.

I saw a shirt that the youth of a congregation wear on days for worship or youth group and at first it looked to me like a sports jersey. But then I looked closer – the passion they had chosen to wear on their chest said, “This is my Church shirt”! And I immediately smiled – what a simple way to share one’s passion, invite others into conversation, and provide a meaningful connection to other Christians. When people think, “aw, no one goes to Church anymore” this shirt says otherwise.



Faith is about far more than fashion choices, of course. But faith does include human connections, sharing what is normal to us, turning towards things that lift us up and remind us to look for God, and many more things that, honestly, the sports establishment does naturally and does well. So if you’re watching the Super Bowl or March Madness, the Winter Olympics or World Baseball Classic, watch how they get their messages across! Messages of hope, redemption, identity, values, mission, and who can belong – you’ll see these on big screens but you can live them, too. Delight in your faith and commit to it – your passion might just bring someone else along for the ride of their life.

In Christ,  
Pastor Wendolyn

## **WELCA**

Thank you to all who donated hats, gloves, and mittens for local children in need this winter. We collected 37 hats, 70 pairs of gloves, 18 hat & glove sets, 2 boxed hat & scarf sets, and 5 pairs of socks. This equals a grand total of 132 pairs/sets of winter wear which were donated to Pleasantville School System. Thank you all for your generosity!

## **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)

### **February Worship Assistants:**

2/1 Edna Cordery  
2/8 June Jordan  
2/15 Kevin Thomas  
2/22 James Ehrhardt

### **March Worship Assistants:**

3/1 Ruth Bowden  
3/8 Shirley Blankenship  
3/15 Meg Markkanen  
3/22 Meg La Spina  
3/29 Mary Ann Gring

### **Up-Coming Events**

**February 18:**

**Bread & Broth, 6 PM**

(Sign-up sheet will be in the narthex, or call the church office.)

**Ash Wednesday Worship, 7:00 PM**

**Lenten Mid-Week Gatherings – Thursday Bread & Broth**

6:00 PM Potluck Dinner & Fellowship Followed by Video/Discussion

**February 26, March 5, 12, 19, & 26**

Sign-up sheets for bringing food-bread, soup, & salad will be available.

A Lenten Daily Devotional Guide and Calendar will be emailed the week before Ash Wednesday, and hard copies will be available in the church narthex and office.

### **Holy Week Schedule**

**Palm Sunday:** March 29 at 8 AM & 10:15 AM

**Maundy Thursday:** April 2 (time TBD)

**Good Friday:** April 3 (time TBD)

**Easter Sunday:** April 5 at 10:15 AM (no 8 AM)



### February

2/1	Colette Estrada
2/3	John Sandtorp
2/3	Carole Trautz
2/5	Frank Golden
2/6	Evelyn Lushear
2/7	Deborah Schafer
2/9	Sally Stieska
2/12	Kathy Ruffenach
2/15	Clare Brick
2/17	Linda Corradetti
2/19	Joe Bilello
2/22	Patty Dunn
2/22	Kathy Wopatek-Nigsch
2/25	Karan Kredatus
2/26	Jim Cordery

### March

3/3	Eric Horrox
3/5	Jeff Toth
3/8	Michael Berenotto, Jr.
3/9	Kyra Kreuz
3/11	Sandy Piskun
3/16	Charlie Bowden
3/19	Bob Klingensmith
3/23	Bonnie Condliff
3/23	Gay Rowland
3/25	Joe Martin
3/27	Meg La Spina
3/28	Aud Suckiel
3/30	Cathleen Foerst
3/31	Sharon Ehrhardt
3/31	Kristin Horrox

HAPPY  
*Anniversary!*

### February

2/9	Maureen Dewees-Kahn
2/9	Helen Flamm
2/11	Bonnie & David Condliff
2/28	Kathy & Joe Ruffenach

### March

3/25	Deborah & Gary Schafer
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