

Grace Lutheran Church
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www.gracelutheranspnj.org

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Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Messenger

October-November 2026

From the Pastor's Desk: Feeling Grateful and Finding Joy

"I believe in joy. We can't mistake it for anything less than what it is: one of the most powerful ways we experience the deepest and most healing forms of gratitude, delight, and hope. It is a kind of transcendence; joy is a glimmer of love and forgiveness and wholeness that lifts us out of reality for a moment and gives us back to ourselves, anew."

Kate Bowler, author, podcaster, and Duke University professor

In a recent sermon, I talked about my change in perspective through the naming of one thing I am grateful for and one joy I experienced each day. I have gained new perspective because this practice has "opened my eyes and it has helped me to see more as God sees," I said that Sunday. I am better able to see the gifts from God in my life, and I have learned to be a little more lighthearted. As we enter fall, a season that asks us to think about gratitude, I want to challenge each of you to try this practice with me. Maybe you will write it down? Maybe it is something you will talk about with your family over dinner? Maybe it will take the form of prayer? I hope and pray you experience a similar transformation and begin to see our world through the eyes of God – eyes of love, grace, and hope.

If you decide to do this – and I hope you do – I would love to hear about your gratitude and your joy. I would love to hear how this small practice changes you.

Staff at Grace

Rev. Elizabeth Frey, 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

Food Pantry News

Grace Place Food Pantry – October-November 2026 Review

Grace Place Food Pantry is continuing strong in its mission of providing food for our neighbors in need who live in the communities of Northfield, Linwood and Somers Point!

As you may know, aid to various programs which provide aid and assistance to food banks has been cut dramatically. *Grace Place* continues to be very fortunate in that we have so many who contribute on a regular basis to assist our neighbors. We are an Ecumenical Food Pantry and that means many of our area churches donate. In the upcoming weeks we will begin to prepare for our Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets which is a very busy time of year for us! We ask for your support again!

We want to sincerely thank everyone for the donations we receive! This is a total community endeavor!

We look forward to continuing to feed our neighbors in 2026-2027 and we are sincerely grateful to Grace Lutheran Church for housing this pantry for thirty plus years!

Sincerely,

Jim Cordery, Director
Grace Place Food Pantry

Feed the Northeast

We are excited to once again participate in Feed the Northeast Food Drive to help combat food insecurity for local families with Thrivent Member Network-Northeast Region! If we are one of the first 100 to collect 500 items for our Grace Place Food Pantry, Thrivent will give a \$500 check to our food pantry in addition to the items collected. This is a great way to help them keep their shelves stocked for those in need, especially through the holiday season! We will be collecting these non perishable food items throughout the month of October, and they may be placed in the designated area in the sanctuary.





Christmas at Sea

SEAMAN'S INSTITUTE-CHRISTMAS AT SEA

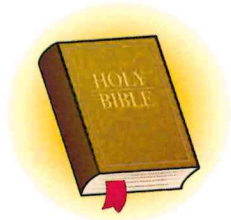
The Grace Stitches are working hard to make essential items for the men & women working at sea during Christmas. This Christmas at Sea Donation Drive will take place during the month of October, and your donations are very much needed and appreciated!

Items Needed for Seafarers:

Warm hats & scarves	Shaving Cream	Shampoo
Work socks, work gloves	Playing cards	Combs
ChapStick	Hand lotion	Pens & small notebooks
Nail clippers	Toothbrush, toothpaste	Mini-sewing kits
Puzzle books	Deodorant , bar soap	Hard/boxed candy, gum,
Razors	Hand warmers	cough drops

WELCA

WELCA meets the **2nd Tuesday of each month at 12:00 noon**. All women of the church are welcome to attend and be part of this group!



Bible Study

Thursdays at 9:30 AM with Pastor Liz Frey at
Grace Lutheran Church

Come join us as we explore the book of Matthew together!

Sunday School Start-Up

Sunday School is back in full swing! Please spread the word and invite children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren! All ages are welcome! If you are interested in teaching or helping with Sunday School, please contact Ellie Hull: 609-287-6550

Email: ellieclp@aol.com

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR ELIZABETH FREY

Sunday, October 11 at our 10:15 AM worship service,
followed by a special luncheon in her honor. Please be sure to RSVP if you are planning to attend the luncheon so we know how much food to order.

4TH ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST

Friday, October 16

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Tickets are on sale in the church office during office hours and in the narthex (back of the church) on Sundays:

\$30 for adults and \$15 for children under 12.

Tickets must be purchased in advance and we have a limited number, so be sure to get yours before they sell out! For additional information, please pick up a flier in the narthex.

CAPE SHORE CHORALE ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AT GRACE

Back by popular demand, Charlie Zahm, Celtic Entertainer!

www.charliezahm.com

Saturday, November 14 from 6:00-9:00 PM

Before and after the concert, there will be beverages, appetizers, and desserts that are included in the \$50 ticket price.

*for more information and to reserve,
contact Claire Theis @ (609) 214-5323
or clairetheis@hotmail.com*

October Worship Assistants:

10/4 Edna Cordery
10/11 June Jordan
10/18 Kevin Thomas
10/25 Jim Ehrhardt

November Worship Assistants:

11/1 Corinne Rhodes
11/8 Shirley Blankenship
11/15 Sharon Ehrhardt
11/22 Ruth Bowden
11/29 Stephen Gring

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 (\$35), Candles (\$10), Wine (10), Bulletins (\$15), Music (\$50), and Messenger (\$50)

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, November 29: Family Deck The Halls

Following 10:15 worship we will decorate the sanctuary together and enjoy pizza and fellowship.

Saturday, December 12: Community Christmas Event 10:00AM-12:00 PM

Get in the holiday spirit together and enjoy Christmas treats and activities!

Sunday, December 13: Advent Lessons & Carols at 10:15 worship

Monday, December 21: Blue Christmas Service at 6:30 PM

A quiet worship service for anyone grieving during the holiday season.

Christmas Eve Worship:

4:00 PM: Family Service with Communion

6:00 PM: Candlelight Service with Choir and Communion

Happy Birthday

October

10/2	Tom Engelman
10/4	David Condliff
10/10	Greg Goff
10/15	Corinne Rhodes
10/16	Roberta Blumenthal
10/18	Bob Grant
10/19	Joyce Bianco
10/23	Vickie Costello
10/23	Helen Fenske
10/25	Marge Wigglesworth
10/26	Ellie Hull
10/27	Joe Ruffenach
10/27	Karl Suckiel

November

11/5	Pastor Liz Frey
11/6	Stephen Ferguson
11/6	Patricia Ogradnek
11/8	Andrew Ehrhardt
11/9	Mary Lou Brown
11/9	Kevin Thomas
11/19	Scott Breiner
11/19	Helen Flamm
11/22	Barbara Hendrix
11/22	Gail Rink
11/24	Nancy Bilello
11/28	Mary Ann Gring
11/28	Mike Piskun

HAPPY Anniversary!

October

10/10	Marge & Tom Wigglesworth
10/21	Lise & Kevin Heffron

November

11/18	Mary Ann & Stephen Gring
11/18	Aud & Karl Suckiel
11/19	Kathleen & Tom Engelman
11/24	Donna & Joe Martin
11/27	Linda & Frank Corradetti