

Grace Lutheran Church
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Food Pantry: 609-927-9982

Messenger

August-September 2026

From the Pastor's Desk: New Beginnings

Greetings from the pastor's desk where I am still surrounded by boxes! I promise I will unpack soon!

Honestly, these last few weeks have been overwhelming as our family makes this transition to a new church, a new state, and a new home. The major things have been taken care of - new drivers' licenses and license plates, a new school for Elijah, and the house is mostly unpacked. I didn't anticipate how much newness would affect our family. It has been quite an adjustment, so thank you for the grace, hospitality, and kindness you have shown all of us.

In my first sermon at Grace on June 14, I talked about new beginnings, and the lessons Jesus teaches us in Matthew 9 and 10 as he prepares his disciples on their new mission. One of the things Jesus teaches us as we begin something new is prayer and the practice of listening to God, to others, and to the surrounding community.

I recently read an important book called *Leading Faithful Innovation*. The authors insist that the first thing we do as we begin something new is listen. "We ask God to help us see what God sees and to hear what God hears." This will be my prayer for the coming months, and I invite you to pray for the same. I'm confident that God is calling Grace into more new beginnings, even if we do not know what they will be yet! And that is okay because as we pray, God will tell us. May we open our hearts and our ears to listen for God's guidance. God has been and will be on this path with us!

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
Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

Greetings from Pennsylvania!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at Grace,

I hope you are all doing well and that Rev. Liz Frey is getting settled in!

I want to say a BIG THANK YOU to all of you for the outpouring of love and support after my stroke. It was most unexpected for me, but I am thankful to be on top of my health again. It turned out I had high blood pressure, cholesterol, and a clot in my heart I did not know about.

I continue to be thankful that even though it occurred in my brain stem, it was not worse. I progressed from a wheelchair and two nurses helping me, to independence and walking on my own during the month I was in the hospital then inpatient rehabilitation center.

Strokes can be quite strange but I continue to feel a bit better each day. My voice, swallowing, balance, face, vision, muscle strength, and sense of pain/temperature were all affected. Some of these things have gotten better already and I have several doctors watching over me now as I recuperate.

All of your cards, flowers, pictures, and notes were uplifting and strengthening for me at a very scary time. I am blessed to be able to get back to part time ministry sometime in August and (hopefully) full time ministry again in the fall once I can drive again. My congregation anxiously awaits my return, but they have also been very supportive during my recovery.

I hope it is a busy but great summer in Somers Point! Many blessings and prayers as you embark on a new ministry journey with your new called pastor!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Althea

Food Pantry News

***Grace Place* Food Pantry – 2026 Mid-year Review**

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

Federal funding, which has been drastically cut, is now the only assistance we receive. However, we are extremely fortunate that *Grace Place* Food Pantry is a community endeavor! We are also an Ecumenical Food Pantry and that means many of our area churches donate. We are very grateful to everyone for the donations we receive!

In 2026, we look forward to continuing to do our best to feed our neighbors! We are appreciative to Grace Lutheran Church for housing our pantry all these years!

Sincerely,

Jim Cordery, Director
Grace Place Food Pantry



BAPTISMS

On Sunday, July 5, Grace Lutheran celebrated the baptism of Madeline Grey Miller! Congratulations, Madeline!



WELCA

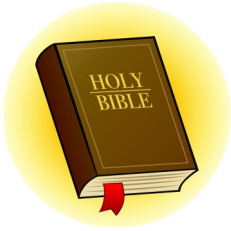
WELCA will resume their monthly meetings on **Tuesday, September 8 at 12:00 PM**. They will continue to meet on the **2nd Tuesday of each month**. All women of the church are welcome to attend and be part of this group!

Good Old Days

Grace will have a table at the **Good Old Days Festival at Kennedy Park on Saturday, September 12 from 10:00 AM-6:00 PM**. This is a great opportunity for us to be visible to the community and get word out about our church and ministries we offer! We will also be advertising for upcoming events, like Oktoberfest. We will need volunteers to sit at our table for an hour or two to help give out brochures and give-away items, and help with the children's craft. Please look for the volunteer sign-up sheet in the narthex on Sundays, or call the church office and let us know your availability.

New Member Welcome

We are excited to announce that we will be installing new members at Grace Lutheran Church on **Sunday, September 13 at our 10:15 AM** worship service! There will be a special welcome fellowship following worship that Sunday.



Bible Study

Mark your calendars for **Thursdays at 9:30 AM** for a time of Bible Study with Pastor Liz Frey at Grace Lutheran Church! This will begin on **Thursday, September 17.**

Sunday School Start-Up

Sunday School will be back in full swing starting **September 20!** 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

Save the Date

INSTALLATION OF PASTOR ELIZABETH FREY

Sunday, October 11 at our 10:15 AM worship service, followed by a special luncheon. Details to follow.

Save the Date

4TH ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST

Friday, October 16
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

August Worship Assistants:

8/2 Edna Cordery
8/9 June Jordan
8/16 Kevin Thomas
8/23 Jim Ehrhardt
8/30 Mary Ann Gring

September Worship Assistants:

9/6 Corinne Rhodes
9/13 Shirley Blankenship
9/20 Sharon Ehrhardt
9/27 Ruth Bowden

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)

Anyone in need of an at-home caregiver, contact:

Compassionate Care At Home

Wendy Roof, Caregiver

25 years experience in Ocean City and surrounding areas.

609-271-0168

Pastor Liz is continuing to meet with all members and friends of our Grace Lutheran Church family of faith. If you not had the opportunity to sign up for a time, please call the church office at 609-927-3082 or

email: office@gracelutheranspnj.org

We will set up a time to for you to meet with her.

She would love to get to know you!



August

8/3	Anna Kreuz
8/4	H. Ray Hunsicker
8/4	Bob Reilly
8/4	Tom Wigglesworth
8/5	Johanna Reilly
8/11	Jane Thompson
8/15	Maureen Dewees-Cahn
8/18	Sue Somers
8/20	Dale Rader
8/21	Al Johnson
8/23	Lisa Merce
8/24	Carolynne Rusek
8/28	Ingeborg Carlson

September

9/4	Karsen Bilello
9/6	Jorge Perez
9/6	Kyle Levocz
9/7	Pam Mele
9/8	Alex Piskun
9/9	Barry Levine
9/10	Donald Brown
9/17	Mike Piskun
9/17	Colette Bradley
9/20	Mary Ellen Bartholomew
9/22	Carol Landes
9/22	Lauren Piskun
9/23	Jim Ehrhardt
9/25	Jason Berenotto
9/29	Edna Cordery

HAPPY
Anniversary!

August

8/8	Ruth & Charles Bowden
8/18	Nancy & Joe Bilello

September

9/8	Johanna & Bob Reilly
9/9	Kristin & Eric Horrox
9/11	Sue & Bernie Somers
9/13	Miranda & Matthew Bilello
9/27	Donna & Mike Berenotto