God’s
Responsive people
Acting out our faith by
Committing ourselves to reach out to
Each and Everyone in God’s vast creation.

***********
“EPISTLE OF GRACE”
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September 2015

Summer Schedule continues on September 6
Worship at 9:30 a.m.

Return to Fall Schedule on September 13 with
God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. Worship / Installation of Sunday school teachers

Then join us after worship for the Reading Lutheran Parish (RLP) picnic to be held at Stonecliffe Recreation area. Grace is responsible for bringing beverages to share.

Come for good food and fellowship. We will also work together to assemble 150 school kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Grace Church needs to provide a donation of 150 blunt edge scissors for the school kits.
— Bring scissor donations to church by September 6. — Details on page 4.
It was called "The Sandwich." And it deserved the name.

One of my college friends adored "The Sandwich" and could wax poetic on its many charms. For while it was the most delicious thing he'd EVER tasted, it was made of nothing but table scraps and a couple of slices of bread.

Maybe you can guess the ingredients: a few pieces of turkey, a spoonful of filling, a splat of mashed potatoes and gravy, a thin layer of cranberry sauce, and whatever else you could find in the back of the fridge on the day after Thanksgiving. It was strange. It was beautiful. It was delicious.

"You can do a LOT with leftovers," my friend used to say.

Last month, some of our members did a LOT with leftovers. In August, we held our first annual Clothing Give-away and Free Lunch, and it was a rousing success. We gave away piles of back-to-school items, backpacks, underwear, socks, and clothing, and we fed everyone to boot. A huge THANK YOU goes out to everyone who made this event possible.

It is clear from the line that formed down 11th Street that morning that the need in our neighborhood is substantial. Many, many people needed those back-to-school basics. How wonderful it was to serve the Jesus we see in our neighbors by fulfilling those needs freely, without asking for anything in return!

We read in the book of Matthew, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food...and when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?...And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"
Of course, there are many things we need to do for ourselves in order to maintain our church. But it sure feels good to reach out and help our neighbors, not asking for anything in return.

Thanks be to God for your generosity and service!  
Peace be with you,  
Pastor Marsha

You're Invited!

Adult Sunday School  
9:00 - 10:00 am

- Do you like to talk about anything and everything?  
- Do you like exploring the big questions of faith and life?  
- Do you like to laugh?  
- Are you curious about what the Bible means for us today?

If so, then Adult Sunday School is the place for you! Join us each week as we learn, have fun, and support one another. We are currently studying the book of Revelation. Sometimes Revelation has a bad reputation, but we are finding that it has a lot to say to us about how Jesus is with us in our day-to-day lives. Come learn and laugh with us.

Children’s Sunday School  
9:00 a.m. Gathering; 9:15 a.m. Lesson

- Kindergarten-Grade 5: Will learn about Jesus, God’s Word, and Bible stories from a curriculum called Spark.
- Grade 6-9: Will explore catechism material in preparation for confirmation.
- Older youth have the option to join either the confirmation class or the adult Sunday school class.

Council Highlights

Council meetings are not held during the summer months of July and August. Our next Church Council meeting will be held on September 10, 7:00 p.m.
God’s Work, Our Hands
God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday
September 13
Picnic at Stonecliffe Recreation
Area Followed by a Time of Serving Others
(Immediately following our 10:30 a.m. worship at Grace, head on over to the picnic.)
Members of Grace are asked to bring beverages to share.

Come spend an afternoon of fellowship with members of our Reading Lutheran Parish Churches for a picnic and time to work together assembling 150 school kits.

The school kits will be given to Lutheran World Relief for children in need around the world. For these children, the supplies could mean the difference between getting an education or not. Public school is usually free, but in the places where LWR works, even a few required supplies, like pens and paper, may be more than many families can afford. And when parents can only send one of their children to school, girls rarely get priority . . . Yet the education level of mothers has the biggest impact on development.

Grace Church is responsible for providing 150 blunt-edge scissors for the school kits. Please bring your scissor donations to church by Sunday, September 6. A collection box is located in the fellowship hall.
Worship Sponsorships Needed

Will you help by sponsoring the altar flowers, sanctuary lamp, and/or bulletins for Sunday worship? Sponsorship is a wonderful way to remember or acknowledge a family member or friend. And it is a great way to provide for worship while offsetting costs for Grace.

We have many sponsorships available in September:

**Flowers:** 1 vase on September 20; 2 vases on September 13, and 27

**Sanctuary Lamp:** September 13

**Bulletins:** September 6, 13, 20, and 27

Cost for sponsoring flowers, lamp, or bulletin is $15 each.

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SPONSOR SHEET
FOR ALTAR FLOWERS, SANCTUARY LAMP, AND BULLETINS

Name of Person Filling Out Form: ________________________

Phone #: __________________

Date of Sponsorship: Sunday, ________________

In Memory / In Honor of: (Please circle Memory or Honor)

___________________________________________________

And given by

__________________________________________________

Check One: ____ Bulletins   ___ Flowers   ___ Sanctuary Lamp

Return completed form to Louise McCloughan.
Tutors Needed!

Can you give two hours of your time each week to help a child Grow in Grace?

Every Tuesday after school children from both Amanda Stout and 10th & Penn Elementary Schools come to Grace Lutheran Church eager to learn but even more eager for the comforting reassurance of a constant and caring person reaching out to help them.

Volunteers are needed to tutor these children each Tuesday from 2:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Grow in Grace Tutoring Program is a wonderful, positive force in the lives of many children. Volunteers work and play with early elementary school children while helping to brighten their journey into life and learning.

The 2015-2016 tutoring program will begin on Tuesday, October 13 and continue into May 2015.

If interested in reaching out to a child, please contact Diane Ohlinger at 610-207-6057. We need the help of many people to provide for the children. Thank you.

Training for volunteers: Tuesday, October 6, 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Donations of Books Needed

We are beginning to plan for our Christmas Bazaar for which books are needed. This is a great way to share your books with members and friends of Grace.

We are accepting donations now. Please place donated books on the cart that is located outside the church office. No magazines please. If you are unable to transport your books to the church building, call the church office at 610-375-3961 and we will make arrangements to pick them up.

Now is the time to clean off those book shelves that you have been planning to get to! Thank you.
Apple Dumpling Sale

Order your apple dumplings by Sunday, October 4, and pick them up by noon on Sunday, October 18, to enjoy a tasty treat. Pay for your apple dumplings at the time of ordering; cost is $3.00 each.

To order apple dumplings, contact any member of the apple dumpling gang:

- Elaine Bachman
- Steve Kemery
- Louise McCloughan
- Claire Ruth
- Janet Bampton
- Lori Miller
- Diane Ohlinger
- Pat Tranovich

Or contact the Church Office at 610-375-3961.

National Youth Gathering

The event itself is behind us, but the experience remains alive for the participants as well as the people of Detroit. We are grateful that Naithan Szerszen and Estella Wagner represented Grace and joined 30,000 youth and chaperones in Detroit to proclaim God’s story, proclaim community, and proclaim justice.

Here is a reflection from Estella:

Detroit was unlike any other city in the world. Our days were filled with the Cobo Center and our nights often ended at Ford Field. We got to meet other Lutherans from all over America, including Hawaii and Alaska! It was such a great bonding experience that even our own group of 21 became a little family over the course of the week. We also got to hang out with some Detroit natives and learn about the place they call home. Detroit was full of memories that could last anyone a lifetime, and I’m so glad I went and saw it for myself!
Please use this form to order chrysanthemums which will decorate the church for Homecoming Sunday, October 18. The plants may be taken home following 10:30 a.m. worship that morning. Cost is $7.50 per plant.

Deadline for ordering is Sunday, October 11.
Payment must accompany order.

NAME:________________________________________________
ADDRESS: ____________________________________________
PHONE:____________________________________

# of geranium plants ______ X $7.50 /each = $______

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:________________________________
GIVEN BY:___________________________________________

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:________________________________
GIVEN BY:___________________________________________

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:________________________________
GIVEN BY:___________________________________________

IN LOVING HONOR OF:________________________________
GIVEN BY:___________________________________________

IN LOVING HONOR OF:________________________________
GIVEN BY:___________________________________________

IN LOVING HONOR OF: _________________________________
GIVEN BY:___________________________________________
FOOD DRIVE
Save the Date!
October 18

This year, we will be collecting nonperishable food items for St. Paul's Lutheran Food Pantry on Homecoming Sunday, October 18. Bring your donations that day, and watch as our gifts surround the altar.

Let's share what we have with those in need!

Thanksgiving Eve Service
CHANGE

After prayer and discussion, Pastor Marsha and the Worship and Music Committee have decided that Grace Church will no longer participate in the annual Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service with several churches from East Reading. While we heartily support efforts to collaborate with our neighbors, this particular event takes many hours of planning, while only a handful of people participate. We are trying to be smarter and more efficient with the way we use our time and energy. We will still acknowledge Thanksgiving on the Sundays surrounding it; and we will have an opportunity for fellowship that week at the Advent Workshop scheduled for November 29. If you have concerns or thoughts, please see Pastor Marsha or a member of the Worship and Music Committee. Thank you.
Reading-Berks Crop Hunger Walk  
Sunday, October 11  
At Gring’s Mill

Help end hunger in our neighborhood and in the world. This year, Grace will not organize a group to walk, but individuals are encouraged to participate as they are able. There are many ways to do so:

- Be part of the walk on October 11. For details, see newsletter insert from the West Berks Mission District.
- Make a financial contribution for someone who is walking or directly to the Greater Berks Food Bank.
- Enjoy dinner at Isaac’s Restaurant in Wyomissing on Thursday, September 10, 5:00-9:00 p.m., and Isaac’s will give 25% of your meal cost to the CROP Walk. Take the form on the next page to the restaurant.

Church Talk Resumes  
Saturday, September 26, 10:00 a.m.—12:00 noon

Join us for vibrant, engaging discussion of topics related to faith, religion, and life. This group began by exploring what it means to be Lutheran, and now we have begun exploring other religions as well. We are currently learning about Islam, which is really expanding our horizons!

Our guest speaker, Rubina Tareen, will return to continue speaking to us from a Muslim perspective. In learning about others, we also learn a lot about ourselves.

Kitchen Crew Forming!

We are looking for folks who are willing to serve as the kitchen crew when there is a reception following a funeral or a baptism. The kitchen crew will be responsible for set-up and logistics, but not cooking. We will meet on September 27 after worship to touch base and figure out the details. Sign-up with Pastor Marsha.
On Thursday, September 10, 2015, Isaac’s Famous Grilled Sandwiches (Village Square, Wyomissing) will host a fundraiser benefiting the Reading-Berks CROP Hunger Walk. Isaac’s will be supporting the CROP Walk by contributing 25% of your meal cost. Bring your family and friends out for a great dinner and support the CROP Walk as we raise money to feed hungry people through Church World Service and the Greater Berks Food Bank!

WHERE: Isaac's Famous Grilled Sandwiches  
Village Square, 94 Commerce Drive  
Wyomissing, PA 19610  
Call 610-376-1717 to place your takeout order  
(Valid at this location only)

WHEN: Thursday, September 10, 2015, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

HOW: Bring this flyer with you to Isaac’s, complete the information, and hand it to your server when paying.

This form can be used for Dine-In, Takeout & Online Orders at www.isaacsdeli.com! Use coupon code FUND for online fundraiser orders.

Please complete this information for your server.

Name: _________________________________________

Number of People in Party: ____________________________

Total Cost of Meal (excluding tax): _______________________

*Coupons, discounts, or specials not valid during this fundraiser.

Want to help our organization earn even MORE? Add an Isaac’s Gift Card to your check and 15% of the gift card sale will be added to the fundraiser! Gift card must be used.
Will You Help sell *Friends Helping Friends* shopping passes to Boscov’s stores? Each shopping pass that you sell for $5 provides Grace Church with $5 to use for ministry. We need people to sell passes to their family, friends, and neighbors beyond the congregation. See Diane Ohlinger for more information on how you can help.

Here is how people benefit from having a shopping pass:
Adult Ministry Festival
Why Don’t Our Kids & Grandkids Go To Church & What Can We Do About It?

Saturday, October 3, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
At Nativity Lutheran Church
4004 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18104

The keynote speaker, The Rev. Dr. David J. Lose, President of The Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia, will address the changes in our culture that affect the emerging generations attitudes toward and attendance at church as well as how we can contribute to passing on the faith to this generation.

The day includes engaging speakers, inspirational music led by Tom Yenser, and creative workshops:
- "Open to the Spirit" Bible Study
- Prayer Can Change You
- How the Seminary Is Preparing Students for the Future Church
- Storytelling
- Keeping Brain & Body Strong
- Faithfully Connected in Life’s Second Half

Cost is $10. Registration deadline is September 15.

A brochure with registration form is available at the back of the church or at nepsynod.org/event/aloa-adult-ministry-festival-2015/.

Travel to Germany: June 24 - July 4, 2016
Join The Rev. Dr. Anja Stuckenberger and Kathy Fegely (both of Zion Spies Lutheran) as they travel to Germany for 11 days. The group will travel from Berlin into "Lutherland," Weimar, Erfurt, and Leipzig. Then they continue on to Nuremberg and Munich. To top things off, they will spend several nights under the starry sky (and feather beds) in the Bavarian Alps.

The all-inclusive cost is $4,045.

Brochures are available at the back of the church or by calling the church office at 610-375-3961.
September Birthdays

1 – Ann White, Charles Acosta
2 – Emily Ortiz
4 – Alexis Kerscher
8 – David Newmoyer, Anne Flowers, Gwen Hatza
10 – Ted Velazquez
13 – Lori Neider
17 – Joshua Ortiz
19 – Rita Wilk
22 – Richard Sherry
24 – Emily Reynolds
26 – Rita Feather
27 – Jason Denunzio
28 – Keith Allison, Dennis Spolski, Isabella Appling
29 – Sean McCullough, Marion Latshaw
30 – Julie Reynolds
September Meetings

- Choir Rehearsal will be held in the sanctuary each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. beginning September 2.
- Staff Meeting: Wednesday, September 2, 10:00 a.m.
- Church Council Meeting: Thursday, September 10, 7:00 p.m.
- Evangelism Team Meeting: Saturday, September 12, 10:00 a.m.
- Kitchen Crew Meeting: Sunday, September 27, after worship

Future Events

Family Fall Festival: Saturday, October 17, 1:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.
Homecoming Sunday: Sunday, October 18 — More information coming in the October Newsletter
Christmas Bazaar: Saturday, November 7, 8:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Spaghetti Luncheon: Sunday, November 8, after worship
Advent Workshop and Lunch: Sunday, November 29, after worship

Join Us for Breakfast at 8:45 a.m. on September 20.

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for submitting articles for the October newsletter is Tuesday, September 15.

Feeling Ill? Going to the Hospital?

Please call the church office at 610-375-3961. This is the only way to be sure that the pastor will know.
Church Staff

Marsha Anderson, Pastor
Kathy Yenser, Church Administrator
Jane Battaglieri, Organist/Choir Director
Diane Ohlinger, Christian Education
Woody Turner, Sexton

Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 9:00 AM—Noon
Telephone number: 610-375-3961
Fax Number: 610-375-1982
Web Site: www.readinggrace.org
E-mail: glcrdg@comcast.net
Or
Office@readinggrace.org

For Pastoral Emergencies call 484-332-3303

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A Member of The Reading Lutheran Parish

“IN THE CITY FOR GOOD!”