

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday
Service of Holy Communion
September 7, 2025
9:30 am

Grace Lutheran Church
Camp Hill, PA

**-the congregation is invited to stand*

WELCOME TO GRACE

A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us this summer. If you are visiting with us, please fill out a guest card which are found in the pews. Following the service, please introduce yourself to the pastor.

We hope that this bulletin will help guide you through our worship service.

INTRODUCTION

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

God gathers us in unity.

GATHERING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Take My Life, that I May Be

arr. Lani Smith

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God,
**we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from
the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice
over us as ones who were lost and have been found.
Amen.**

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ
came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have
been found. In the name of † Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
Amen.

***GATHERING HYMN**

My Life Flows on in Endless Song

ELW#763

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your
continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and
ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by
your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ,
our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

God speaks to us in scriptures read, sung, and preached.

WORD

FIRST READING – Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death
and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD
your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD
your God, walking in his ways, and observing his
commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live
and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you
in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart
turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down
to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you

shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM – Psalm 1

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING – Philemon 1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,
To our beloved coworker Philemon, ²to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the

good that we share in Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33**

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Take My Life, that I May Be

ELW#685

***APOSTLES CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Each prayer concludes:

God of grace,

Receive our prayer.

***THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace with one another.

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

MEAL

OFFERING

We respond to the grace given us by sharing our gifts with others through the offering. Today's regular offering supports the ongoing ministry of Grace church. You can give online, by cash, or by check.

MUSICAL OFFERING

Softly and Tenderly

arr. Timothy Johnson

Kristopher & Emily Hartman

***SETTING THE TABLE**

Bread of Life, Our Host and Meal

ELW#464 vs 1



***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

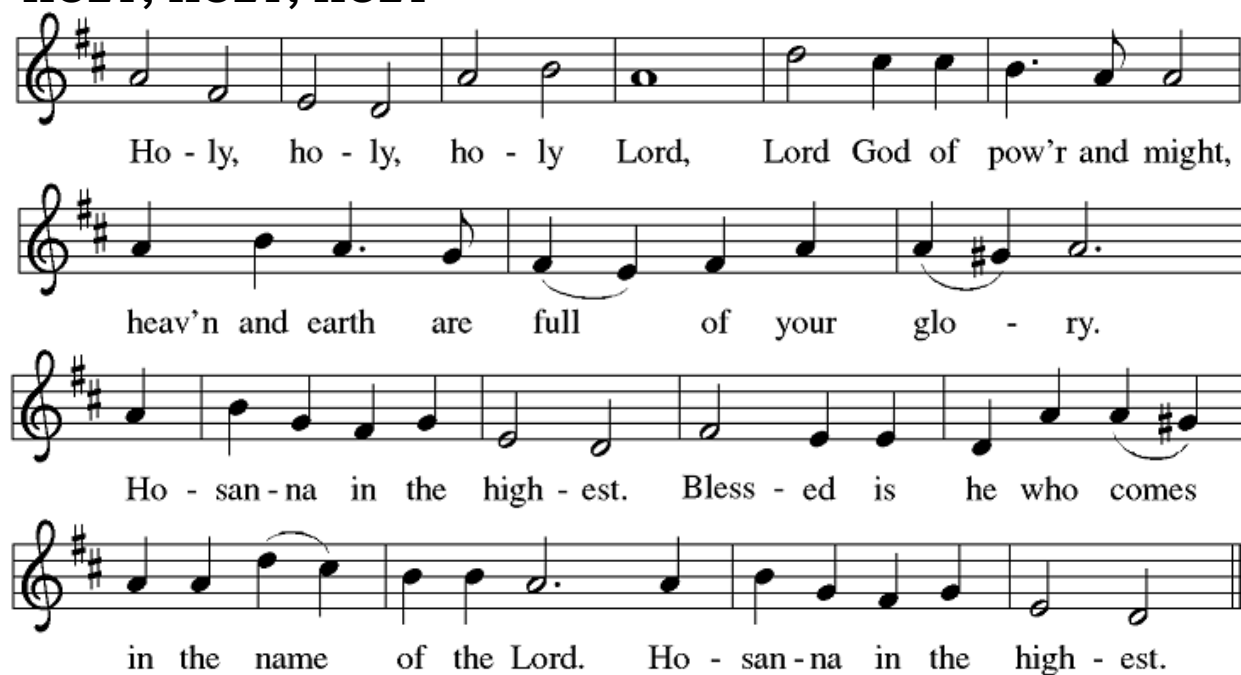
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of surprises, your Spirit brooded over the waters at creation and lived among your chosen people in wilderness, exile, and promised land. Your Spirit filled Mary's womb at the moment of Jesus' conception and came upon him like a dove at his baptism. When Christ died on the cross your power raised him from the tomb on the third day, and that same evening he breathed your forgiving grace on those who had deserted him. On the day of Pentecost you sent your Spirit upon the fearful disciples, filling them with fire, with power, with wonder and joy, and making them your church. And so we gladly thank you, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, singing the hymn of your unending praise;

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



***THANKSGIVING AT TABLE**

God of comfort and strength, we look to your Holy Spirit to be with us in sorrow and in contentment, in crisis and in abiding stillness. Come among us now through the power of your Spirit, that we may be transformed into your image, and that these gifts of bread and wine may become for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ,

*In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

God of dreams and prophecy, send down upon us your gifts of wisdom, knowledge, and faith; of healing, discernment, and interpretation, that your church may be built up in the likeness of your Son. Let anyone who is hungry find in you the bread of life, and anyone who is thirsty find in you rivers of living water. Speak your word to all who are alone and in fear or despair, and let each one of your children hear your voice in their own language, whether that language be art or science, work or play. Sanctify your groaning creation, that your universe may breathe your breath and be filled with your life anew, that we may love what you love, and do what you would do, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, ever one God.

Amen!

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly may be seated.

Those communing at home or in their seats are invited to prepare their elements then to be led through eating and drinking the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine.

Please come forward to receive the body and blood of Christ in the bread and the wine.

The Lutheran Church welcomes all to the Lord's Supper. If you are not a Christian and wish to inquire about the Christian faith, we invite you to speak to the minister.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

***BLESSING AND PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of the Risen Lord strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

SENDING

***BLESSING AND SENDING FOR MISSION**

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we send these standing to *Midwest Food bank in Middletown.*

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you.

We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.

Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others, especially of those in need.

Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger, care for creation, and be loving neighbors to all people.

Prosper the work of their hands.
Bless those who receive the fruits of their labor,
and may those who are sent receive blessing in return.
May the gifts they use and share be signs of your love to all people.

To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever.

Amen.

***SENDING HYMN**

Lift High the Cross

ELW#660

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

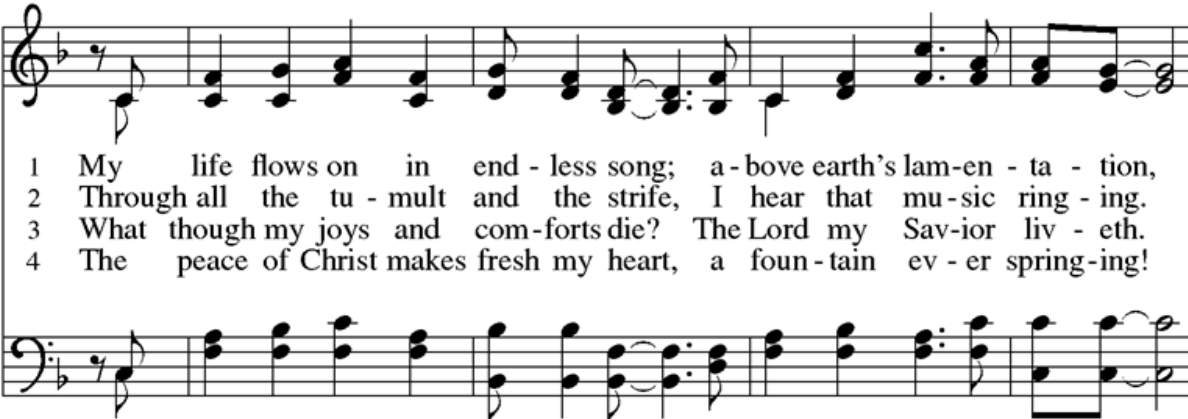
Lift High the Cross

Crucifer

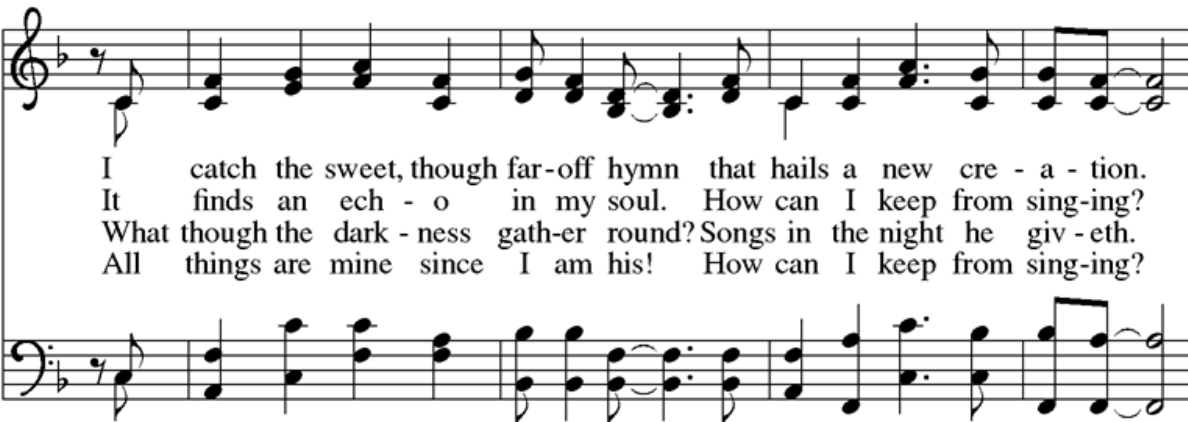
SERVING TODAY IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Chad Butz
Assisting Minister.....	Donna Enrico
Lector.....	Pat O'Neal
Acolyte	Claire Pankake
Communion Assistants	Tom Blackburn, Patty Rohde
Sound	Rick Keen
Director of Music.....	Kristopher Hartman
Organist.....	Emily Hartman
Technology Operator	Chris Jury

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

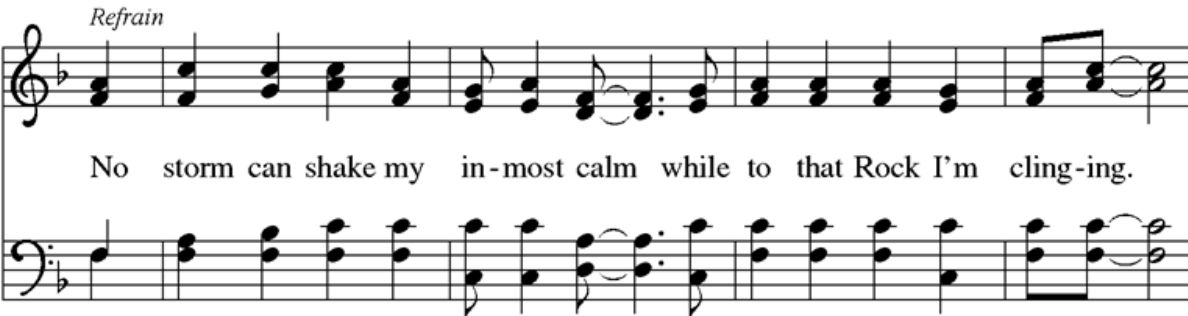


1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Take My Life, That I May Be

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps). It consists of two systems of staves. The first system contains the first four verses of the hymn, and the second system contains the next four verses. The melody is primarily in the Soprano part, with the other parts providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the corresponding staves.

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Lift High the Cross

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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EVENTS



Connect With Us



Give Now

Our Story

Matthew 25:35-40: *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And 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.’”*

The purpose of Grace Lutheran Church is to make a difference by serving others through God’s love and our faith

Grace Church Staff

Senior Pastor	The Rev. Chad Butz 610.297.2514 (cell); pastorchad@gracecamphill.org
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Director of Music	Kristopher Hartman K.E.Hartman11@gmail.com
Organist	Emily Hartman K.E.Hartman11@gmail.com
Office Administrator/Sexton	Chris Jury cjury@gracecamphill.org
Administrative Specialist.....	Diane Deppen ddeppen@gracecamphill.org

To contact the church office: 717.737.0439; office@gracecamphill.org

Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

**Grace Lutheran Church * 1610 Carlisle Road *
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011**