

May

Grace Lutheran Church
May 2026 Newsletter

Pastor's Pen

Throughout this Season of Easter, I have continued to focus on the power of the resurrection. The understanding of the resurrection is the cornerstone of our Christian theology as well as the foundation of our faith in God. If we embrace the power of the resurrection and what it means to our lives, it has profound meaning for us all and shapes how we live our lives as believers.

The resurrection expresses to us what our God is all about, it defines the nature of our faith, and our mission as followers of Christ. And as a result, our daily calling as Christians is deeply rooted in the reality that Christ lived, died, and rose again. In fact, Christian baptism itself is described by the Apostle Paul as a public expression of our oneness with Christ, both in his death and in his resurrection. This is the Christian Hope.

There is strong historical evidence that the resurrection of Christ actually happened. This makes Christian hope different from any other variety.

But what is hope? I once heard a preacher describe hope as “desire mixed with expectation.” I like that, don't you? Hope is when I want something I don't have, but fully expect to receive. Like the young mother who just received a cancer diagnosis. She desires to be well. To live long enough to see her children grow up. And thanks to a careful treatment plan, she expects all of her desires will come true. The journey will be difficult. But hope makes the journey worth it. That is the power of hope.

Jesus's resurrection is the basis of Christian hope. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we have hope death will be finally defeated. We have hope we will be fully redeemed. We have hope there is a new creation coming. We have hope everything wrong with the world will be made right. Our desire to see everything made new, mixed with the expectation that it will be, is what makes life worth it. That is the power of Christian hope.

Resurrection hope is life changing. This type of hope comes face-to-face with death and says, “you lose.” New Testament scholar N.T. Wright puts it this way, “Hope, for the Christian, is not wishful thinking or mere blind optimism. It is a mode of knowing, a mode within which new things are possible, options are not shut down, new creation can happen.” Christian hope sees beyond the brokenness of the present world and into a future of renewed creation. And that hope makes our journey worth it. That hope is our reason to live.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Roger

Grace Lutheran Church Council Highlights - April 9, 2026

Minutes from our March 11, 2026 meeting, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and Pastor's reports were read and approved.

Pastor's Report Highlights:

- Conducted Lenten Mid-Week program at Trinity. Many Grace members attended
- Planned and led Holy Week and Easter services
- Visited a parishioner at Albany Med
- Supported a person in need in the community by providing a ride
- Leading a Bible Study Thursdays at 1 p,m, The location alternates between Grace and Trinity
- Met with the Executive Committees of both churches to determine one job description and salary for a shared Office Administrator
- Met with pianist/organist to discuss several topics
- Participated in the Interfaith Easter Egg program
- Attended a Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of All Saints Episcopal Church
- Took golf vacation March 15 - March 21

Council Actions and Announcements:

- Adopted the Misconduct and Abuse Prevention document
- Approved the Joint Office Administrator job description and salary
- Approved the purchase a laptop computer, monitor, keyboard and wireless mouse for the Office Administrator from "SetupMy.Tech" and hire them to set up the laptop for a cost of \$749.34. The money will come from the Regular Memorial Line Item. The current office computer will be moved to the library for the Financial Secretary to use.
- A picture of the Rose Window with a border has been made and will be signed at the Retirement Brunch on April 26th and take the money from the 60% Within Church Reserve Fund Line Item
- Approved giving Bonnie \$1000 retirement present in lieu of vacation pay with the money coming from the 60% Within Church Reserve Fund Line Item

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property:

- Bollard Collars need to be cut down and set in - Ashley and Pastor will do this
- The lights downstairs need to be checked that they are all off when leaving downstairs.

InReach/OutReach:

- Relay for Life of Fulton and Montgomery Counties is 5 pm on Friday, June 5th at GHS
- Sign up is open online - go to Relayforlife.com and then enter your ZIP code
- To make a donation see Ashley Gaugler

Finance:

- Audit needs to be done

Interfaith Council:

- The Interfaith Bible Study was well received. Another one will be planned
- The Interfaith Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled at the Foothills Worship Center Saturday, April 4th
- Gloversville Baccalaureate Ceremony will be held at North Main Methodist Church at 6pm on June 10th
- The Council still needs a new Secretary and Treasurer



Thank you for the opportunity to serve Grace as
your secretary for over 20 years!!
It has been quite a journey for me!

Many thanks to the In-reach Committee and
those of you who helped with the meal and/or
brought something to contribute to it.
The fellowship hall looked great also!!

Much love to each and everyone of you,
In Christ's Love, Bonnie



THANK YOU

We are so apprec-
iative of Grace Lutheran
parishioners' generous
donation to the John-
stons food pantry.
Your support is
greatly appreciated
and helps us meet
the needs of our
community.

Sincerely,
Mary K. Gilmore

You're Invited to Celebrate Linda's 80th Birthday!



Join us in honoring a truly special milestone for a truly special lady as Linda turns 80! Per her wishes, instead of a traditional gathering, we're throwing a "Card Party"—and you're part of the celebration!


 *Here's how it works:*


Help us celebrate Linda by sending her a birthday card filled with love, memories, and warm wishes.

 *Birthday: May 11*

 *Please mail your card so it arrives by: May 11*

Send cards to her address at: 257 County Highway 154, Gloversville, NY 12078

Let's fill her mailbox with joy and make her 80th birthday unforgettable! 
If you'd like to include a favorite memory, photo, or note about what Linda means to you, it will make her day even more special.

 *Thank you for helping us celebrate Linda in such a special and meaningful way!*

With love,

Scott, Lori and Heidi



David A. Petersen son of _____ the late Harry and Charlotte Petersen was called home to our Lord on Wednesday April 22nd this year.

He is survived by his children, Thomas and his wife Peyton; Jennifer and her husband Kevin; Jeffrey and his wife McKenzie and sister Barbara Petersen. He is also survived by his grandchildren Carter and Amelia Petersen; Grayson, Collins and Ryan Jette and harper and Charlie Petersen.

Calling hours for the family and friends will be held on Monday May 18, 2026 from 3-5 p.m. Here at Grace with a short service to follow. The family also invites everyone to the reception immediately following the service in the church fellowship hall.

Memorial donations in Dave's memory may be made to a charity of one's choice.

Internment will take place at Prospect Hill Cemetery.



- 2 - Emily Frasier
- 7 - **National Day of Prayer**
Esther Weaver
- 10 - **Happy Mother's Day**
- 11 - Cynthia Clo
Linda Bumpus
Phyllis Wright
- 15 - Don Phelps
- 16 - **Armed Forces Day**
- 18 - Mary Phelps
- 19 - Carol Preston
- 20 - Carol Paxton
- 21 - Karl Blanchard
Larry Preston
Tabetha Angus
- 22 - James Wallace
- 23 - Joshua Brown
- 25 - **Memorial Day**
- 30 - Connie Clouthier
- 31 - Joshua Harvey Fountain

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- 2 - Hannah Catherine Fountain
 - 3 - Dennis Hubley
 - 4 - Carol Travis-Hennessey
 - 5 - Beth Claes
 - 6 - **D-Day**
 - 9 - Douglas Darling
Barto Brown II
 - 13 - William Goebel
 - 14 - **Flag Day**
 - 15 - **Happy Father's Day**
 - 16 - Seth Dorsey
 - 17 - James Mitchell
Breanna VanValkenburgh
 - 19 - **Juneteenth**
 - 20 - **First Day of Summer**
Carol Paxton
Patricia Calhoun
Jarred Brown
 - 21 - **Father's Day**
First Day of Summer - Yay!
 - 23 - Evelyn Grace Clo
 - 27 - John Peck
Deanna Frasier
 - 28 - Dorian Angus
 - 30 - Dennis Hubley



**2026 Upstate NY Synod Assembly -
Registration Is OPEN!
*Cultivating a GRACE Mindset:
Experimentation***

“I am about to do a new thing; now
it springs forth!” – Isaiah 43:19a
Something new is springing forth –
and you’re invited to be part of it!

The Assembly will open **Tuesday,
May 26th at 1:30 pm** and conclude
the next afternoon **Wednesday, May
27th** at the end of business.

"Let the children come unto me...."

The UNYS Hunger Justice team has designated this spring's ELCA World Hunger synodical appeal for ministries focused on the care and feeding of orphans and vulnerable children. Each congregation is challenged to bring a gift of \$500 or more to our UNYS Spring Assembly, May 26-27.

As Jesus welcomed and embraced children, despite the Disciples' disapproval, so we, too, are called to respond to the plight of those whose families have been fractured, leaving children vulnerable to malnutrition and disease. Through our support of ELCA ministries of feeding, nutrition and health care, we are demonstrating Jesus' compassion for "the least of these", those alone and with no means to care for themselves.

We who serve on the UNYS Hunger Justice Team count on your faithful generosity and thank you for your advocacy of ELCA World Hunger in your congregation. Working together, we live in hope "that all the world may be fed".

Grace and peace,

Your Hunger Justice Team





Grace Lutheran Team

Relay for Life
Fulton and Montgomery
Counties
Friday, June 5th at 5 p.m.
Gloversville High School

Sign-up is OPEN Online
Go to RelayforLife.com
Enter your local zip code

To make a donation go online or
contact Ashley Gaugler

SERVING SCHEDULE - May - 2026 (subject to change)

Date	Assisting Ministers -	Reader	Usher(s)	Crucifer	Altar Guild - Bread	Counters
3 ELW setting 4 9:00	Presiding: Pastor Roger Behrens Nancy Demarest <u>Communion Assistant</u> Nancy Demarest	Bonnie Olendorf	Clyde and Donovan Smith		Nancy Demarest <u>Bread Baker</u> (At the rail) Mary Ann Hathaway	Nancy Demarest Bonnie Olendorf
10 ELW setting 4 9:00	Presiding - Pastor Roger Behrens Linda Bumpus <u>Communion Assistant</u> Linda Bumpus	Mary Ann Hathaway	Fred Gilbert and Kathy VanValkenburgh		Peggy Niforos Intinction	Darleen Gaugler Bonnie Olendorf
17 ELW setting 4 9:00	Presiding - Pastor Roger Behrens Donna Coonrad <u>Communion Assistant</u> Donna Coonrad	Vicki Behrens	Linda Bumpus and Nancy Demarest		Darleen Gaugler Intinction	Kathy VanValkenburgh Bonnie Olendorf
24 ELW Setting 4	Pentecost Presiding - Pastor Roger Bahrens Bonnie Olendorf <u>Communion Assistant</u> Bonnie Olendorf	Linda Bumpus	Darleen Gaugler and Lee Mitchell	Lee Mitchell	Kathy VanValkenburgh <u>Bread Baker</u> (At the rail) Nancy Demarest	Nancy Demarest Bonnie Olendorf
31 ELW setting 4 9:00	Trinity Sunday Presiding - Pastor Roger Behrens Peggy Niforos <u>Communion Assistant</u> Peggy Niforos	Maryland Warner	Clyde and Donovan Smith	Donna Coonrad	Nancy Demarest <u>Bread Baker</u> (At the rail) Nancy Demarest	Darleen Gaugler Bonnie Olendorf

**Prayer Concerns
May 2026**



Remember our Shut-ins

At Home

**Jackie Hollenbeck
Erah Kilmer
Marilyn Warner**

Hillcrest - Amsterdam

Don Phelps

Wells House

Mary Phelps

Wilkenson - Amsterdam

Marlene Slingerland



Prayer Concerns:

**Donald Wright
Carol Beekman
John Mero Jr.
Kimmey
Ruth Eisenhauer
Samara Smith
Lilyann Smith
Patricia Fallis
Dan Costello
Sharon Snell
Ron Pedrick
Sharon Smith
Richard Kowalacyk
David Seward
Todd Rulison
Greta Davis
Anne Cinquemani
Michelle Stockwell
Samara Smith**



**All those who have served
and for all those who are now
serving in the armed forces.**

Especially:

**Christopher Behrens
Brandon Caldwell
Victor Ralbovsky
Dylan Bumpus
Ryly Bumpus**

and for our enemies

**Please pray for NOAH, and all of
the food pantries of Johnstown
and Gloversville and for those in
need of them.**

CHURCH ACTIVITIES - MAY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School	4	5	6	7 Joint Bible Study 1 p.m. at Trinity	8	9 Ten Commandments Study 9 p.m. at Trinity
10 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School	11	12 Interfaith Council meeting 9:30 a.m.	13	14 Joint Bible Study 1 p.m. at Grace Church Council meeting 5:30 p.m.	15	16 Ten Commandments Study 9 a.m. at Trinity
17 9:00 a.m. Worship with Communion 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School	18 Funeral Service for David Petersen 3 pm visitation 5 pm service	19	20	21 Foothills Conference Ministerium 9 am Joint Bible Study 1 pm		23 10 Commandments Study at Trinity 9 am 1 st Communion training at Trinity
24 Pentecost 9:00 a.m. - 1 st Communion 9:00 a.m. - Worship with Communion 9:00 a.m. - Sunday Sc.	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26 Synod Assembly in Syracuse	27 Synod Assembly Syracuse	28 Pastor and Vicki to Italy thru June 10th	29	30
31 9:00 a.m. - Worship with Communion 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School						