

**HAPPENINGS AROUND GRACE  
THIS WEEK  
February 25, 2024—March 3, 2024**

2nd Sunday of Lent 2/25/24

10:15AM Traditional Worship with  
**Bishop Bartholomew &  
100th Anniversary Kick-Off  
Luncheon**

4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

MONDAY 2/26/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

TUESDAY 2/27/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
6:30PM Narcotics Anonymous  
7:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY 2/28/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
11:30AM Bayside Duplicate Bridge  
7:00PM Narcotics Anonymous

THURSDAY 2/29/24

9:00AM-11:30AM Food Pantry  
5:00 Choir Rehearsal  
**6:00PM Bread & Broth/Video  
(The Chosen) & Discussion**  
7:00PM Al-Anon

FRIDAY 3/1/24

10:30AM Grace Stitchers  
7:30PM Alcoholics Anonymous

SATURDAY 3/2/24

*No events*

3rd Sunday of Lent 3/3/24

8:00AM Spoken Worship  
8:45AM Adult Forum Group  
10:15AM Traditional Worship with  
4:00PM Alcoholics Anonymous

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Mon-Tues 10:00AM-3:00PM  
Thurs-Fri 10:00AM-3:00PM

**PASTOR OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor Althea is often in the  
office and she is always  
available by appointment.

**SHORE DINER**

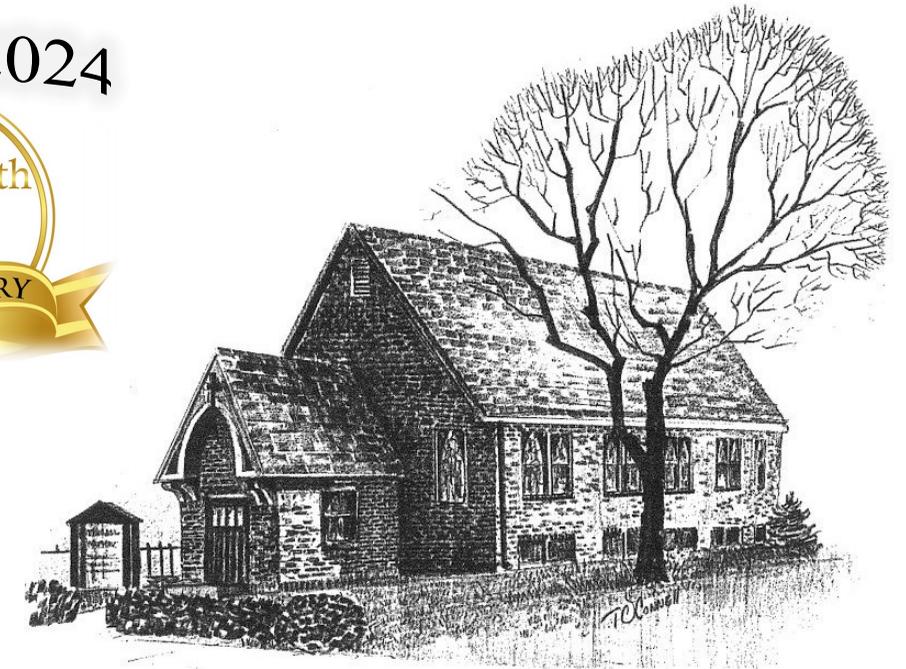
Present this bulletin on a Sunday  
and Shore Diner will donate 20% to Grace  
Lutheran Church. Present this on  
any other day, and we will donate 10%.

Shore Diner  
6710 Tilton Road  
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234  
609-641-3669

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent**

**February 25, 2024**

1924 - 2024



**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

11 East Dawes Avenue, Somers Point, NJ

**Church Office:** 609-927-3082 **Food Pantry:** 609-927-9982

**Website:** [www.gracelutheranspnj.org](http://www.gracelutheranspnj.org)

**E-mail:** [office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net](mailto:office@gracelutheranspnj.comcastbiz.net)

Rev. Althea Albright, Pastor ☩ Scott J. Breiner, Music Director  
Corinne Rhodes, Administrative Assistant  
Alison Toth, Social Media Consultant

**We welcome you to worship here at Grace!**

*Note that all text written in **bold** is for congregation participation.  
Our hymn songs are found in the Evangelical Lutheran Worship  
red hymnal found in the pews.*

~ GATHERING ~

**Thank you for joining with us as we worship our Lord together!**

**Introduction**

*The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.*

**WELCOME**

Rev. Althea Albright

**PRELUDE**

*Grand Choeur Dialogué*

by Eugène Gigout

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GREETING**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**Reader: James Ehrhardt**

**The flowers today are in honor of the 100th Anniversary of our church.**

*We give thanks today for the leadership and presence of Bishop Tracie Bartholomew, a daughter of this congregation!*

**STRONGER TOGETHER**

*Grief Support Group*

The next meeting times are scheduled for **Monday, March 4 at 7:00 PM**, and the second group will meet on **Thursday, March 7, at 2:00 PM.**

Anyone is welcome to attend the group that best fits your schedule.



**Bread and Broth Supper throughout Lent**

**Join us Thursdays at 6:00PM**

*in the Fellowship Hall for supper*

**6:30PM** faith enrichment video series

***The Chosen***

(February 29, March 7, 14, 21)



Please sign up to bring bread, soup, or a salad so we know what food we will have each week. Call the church office or sign up in the narthex on the sign up sheet on Sundays.

*and the pastor will bring you communion after everyone has come forward. Children may come forward to receive a blessing.*

**COMMUNION MUSIC**                      *Sicilienne*  
by Gabriel Faure and arr. by Jacques Larocque

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Compassionate God, **you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

### SENDING BLESSING

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**                      *The Church's One Foundation*                      ELW #654  
VERSES 1, 2, 3, 5 ALL, VERSE 4 CHOIR

*Please be seated. Enjoy the postlude music and meditate on how God spoke to your heart today.*

**POSTLUDE**                      *Toccata*                      by Charles-Marie Widor

**DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*We are glad for your presence today.*

*We hope you come again soon!*

**We thank all those serving in worship today!**

**OPENING HYMN**    *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*    ELW #774

### 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.**

### KYRIE

*White Booklet page 2*

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, we give thanks this day, as we remember the passion of your blessed Son, that his journey from suffering to death on the cross would provide a gateway for all who follow his example to eternal life. Grant that we may glory in the cross of Christ and gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**PEACE**    The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

### GREET YOUR NEIGHBOR

*Take a brief moment to share the peace by greeting someone sitting near you. Verbal greetings are appropriate if you are not comfortable shaking hands or touching.*

*Please be seated.*

~ **WORD** ~

### FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

*As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah's womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God's promise.*

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram,



A: We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved. We also lift *those we name aloud now or in our hearts...* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A: We turn to you for peace. We honor all the saints who lived in service to others, especially all those who have been a part of this faith community in the last 100 years. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

### ~ HOLY COMMUNION ~

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING

*White Booklet page 3*

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

#### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

*White Booklet page 4*

**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

#### SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

*Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.*

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION***White Booklet page 3*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 8th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38**

*After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.*

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Bishop Tracie Bartholomew

*Please stand as you are able.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Amazing Grace*

ELW #779

VERSE 1, 3, 5 ALL, VERSE 2 WOMEN, VERSE 4 MEN

**THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

**OFFERING**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

by David Schwoebel

Andrew Ehrhardt: Clarinet

*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRESENTATION OF GIFTS** *Create in Me a Clean Heart* WOY #732

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of mercy and grace, **you have blessed us with many good things. Fill us with your spirit of love and courage at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need. *Brief silence.*

A: We turn to you for meaning, Holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**