



Parish News

To Glorify God
 To Grow in Faith
 To Give In Service
Together in Christ

A Letter from Pastor

June 2017

"Creation, Luther and Us"

Dear Members of Grace and Friends in Christ,

"God is in all creatures, even the smallest flower" - Martin Luther

Nearly every worship service we do at Grace includes either the Apostles or Nicene Creed. Both creeds begin in a similar way, a statement of God the Father as the creator (maker) of heaven and earth. In explaining this first article of the Apostles Creed, Martin Luther used these words:

I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my limbs, my reason, and all my senses, and still preserves them; in addition thereto, clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and homestead, wife and children, fields, cattle, and all my goods; that He provides me richly and daily with all that I need to support this body and life, protects me from all danger, and guards me and preserves me from all evil; and all this out of pure, fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which I owe it to Him to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

Creation is not a once and done thing. God continues to create, nourish, and sustain us and all living things. Part of God's care is identifying us as the stewards of creation, to care, uphold and respect each living things and also those things that support life--water, air, land and food. It is a system of both balance and beauty; scientists call it our ecosystem. I recall a nature activity we used to do at Bear Creek, "The Web of Life", where campers would sit together in a circle representing different animals, plants, or parts of the earth. Staff would connect with a single ball of string those things that needed each other and the end of the activity there was a giant web like a spider might cast. If one

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part was then broken such as when the water is polluted or an animal becomes extinct, the integrity of the web was ruined.

Luther, as many who lived in monastic communities in that day, knew nature well. When asked what he would do if the world ended tomorrow, Luther replied, **"I would plant a tree today."** In the same way, I think God the Creator and Martin Luther reminds us of the importance of appreciating nature. If you learn and become involved with something, you will learn to care, nurture, and help it. So it is with our world. It is easy to stay inside, to enjoy air conditioned, climate-controlled rooms. But please understand there is a wonder in standing under a gentle rain, feeling the sun on your shoulders, or marveling in a beautiful sunset. Take a walk. Have a garden if you are able. If you are not able, ask to see the garden of your neighbor or family member. Come to our church garden. it is a place of beauty to walk, right in the middle of Hatfield! Pull some weeds if you can! Concerning gardening, Luther had these words, **"In a delightful garden, sowing, planting, or digging are not hardship but are done with a zeal and a certain pleasure."**

These days of summer afford many of us a change in schedule and some leisure time. Take the opportunity that our lands close by and far away afford us in knowing the hand of God at work. We are in a beautiful and blessed land. May we continue it by what we do so our children, grandchildren, and their grandchildren may enjoy the same!

So with one final Luther quote, **"God writes the Gospel, not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, and in the flowers and clouds and stars."**

And two final unrelated blessings I would like to share. In the first 3 1/2 years of my ministry, I only officiated two marriages. In a period of five weeks, beginning in June, I will officiate three more! Please pray for our June marriages of Will Shaffer and Tori Shelly as they are wed at Grace on June 17 and with John Herculini and Victoria Clegg as they are married on June 23.

Also, thanks to say many of you in your kindnesses to Robin and me as we said farewell to our dog Utley and hello to our new dog Riley from the Quakertown SPCA. I intend to write an article similar to the letter this month on our dogs and Martin Luther who also said a lot about dogs. It will be posted on my blog on our congregation's webpage.

Together in Ministry,

+ Pastor Dave Lutcher

Don't forget to attend June's Reformation 500 Event on

Sunday, June 25 at 2:00 PM at Advent, Harleysville: **"An Afternoon with Katie Luther"** An opportunity to meet a remarkable woman who lived at an extraordinary time and place. Come hear her astounding story.

News from Stepping Stones

At Stepping Stones it has been a very exciting month for us here. We are looking forward to our Nursery School end of the year program. This program is being held on Wednesday May 24, 2017. The Nursery School children will perform for their parents some of the songs, finger plays, and a piece on the bells that they have been learning throughout the year. Nursery School is held from 9 to 11:30 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Mornings, from September to May. We are now enrolling children for the 2017/2018 school year. If you know of a family or child who could benefit from this program, please have them give us a call at 215-368-2052 to register for our new school year. Children must be 3 or 4 years old by September 1, and must be potty trained to participate in our Nursery School program.



Our Summer Worship Schedule begins on May 28th
One Communion Service at 9:15 pm
Bible Story and Craft Time for Children

During our **9:15 am** Summer Worship Services the children are invited to participate in the Bible Story and Craft Time. Children who participate will leave the sanctuary after the gospel reading and return for communion. The children may return to the Fellowship Hall after communion until the end of the service. At the conclusion of worship, please meet your children in the Fellowship Hall.

Bible Story and Craft will begin June 4th and continue through August 27th.

Note: No Bible Story and Craft on Sunday, July 2nd, August 20th, and September 3rd

Sunday School Notes

Sunday, May 21st was the last Week of Regular Sunday School Programming for the school year at Grace. What a whirlwind. Even though we didn't get started until well into the fall, we were certainly able to cram a lot into our Sunday School Funtime. We learned all about Creation, reviewed those good stories about Abraham, Noah, and Moses and finished up with Joshua and the Battle of Jericho this last week.

Whatever you do ... don't stop coming to church for the summer because Sunday School is over. You might not know, but even though we go down to 1 worship on Sunday Mornings at 9:15am, there is still a children's activity every Sunday. Different families take turns leading the children in a lesson during the sermon time. This is great practice for any little ones at trying to make it through the beginning of worship. I hope to see you all over the summer.

We will resume regular Sunday School Classes again on September 17th so mark your calendars!

Love,

Laura, Al, Jaime, and Charlie!

EXERCISE CLASS. Want to try something newjoin a core strengthening class. This is a low impact non jumping class.

WHEN: June 5, 12, 19, 26, 2017 from 7-8 pm

WHERE: Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 40 N. Main Street, Hatfield, PA

COST: Introductory offer \$20 (Make checks payable to: Grace Lutheran Church)

WHO: Ages 18 and up

What is needed: exercise mat

Bring a friend everyone is welcome. We must have at least 10-15+ people to hold the class.

Contact Kathy Stawasz if interested. Deadline is 5/26/17.

Summer Wednesday Evening Fellowship Gatherings

Our Summer Gatherings on Wednesdays at Grace start in June. We begin our time together with dinner and fellowship. Dinner is at **6:30 pm**. Please consider hosting one of our five Wednesday gatherings. As hosts you provide the main course and invite others to bring side dishes. This is a great time to catch up with Grace Friends during the summer when our schedules are busy with traveling and family activities. If you would like to be a host for one of our Wednesday Evening Picnics, please contact Kay Stone.

Picnics will be held on June 28th July 12th and 26th August 9th and 23rd

Church Council members will host our first picnic at Grace.

PICNICS ARE RAIN OR SHINE!!



Caring With Cards

During the summer months of June, July and August, the INreach Team will be collecting small denomination gift cards to distribute to our members in need. There are times when the Team would like to provide a meal or needed supplies to someone, but, we just do not know what they might need. A gift card may be the best option. So when you are checking out at Giant, ShopRite, Walmart, or anywhere else you might shop, pick up a \$5 or \$10 gift card and give it to one of the INreach Team members (Mama Jean Geotter, Kitty Heckler, Lori Pluda, Tami Sarm, Peggy Schmidt, Kay Stone, Sue Weiland, Emily Woltmann, Fay Younger, or Carol MacDonald) or just place it in Carol MacDonald's mailbox. Many thanks, in advance, for your generosity and care for our Grace family!

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

<i>John Fischer</i>	<i>Peg Weaver</i>	<i>Don Capanear, Sr.</i>
<i>Carol Buffone</i>	<i>Joan Lattanze</i>	<i>Ginger Rittenhouse Holnick</i>
<i>Suzanne Colville</i>	<i>John Stangl</i>	<i>Jennifer Kaler-Thomas</i>
<i>Paige Haldeman</i>	<i>Bill Forst</i>	<i>Mary Ann Little</i>
<i>Dawn Doll</i>	<i>Ed Chowajsky</i>	<i>Russ Hartman</i>
<i>Sue Deitch</i>	<i>Jodi & Chelsea Krawitz</i>	<i>Pam & Fred Matolicz</i>
<i>Yahaira Vasquez</i>	<i>Joe McGlinchey</i>	<i>The Family of Gus Lattanze</i>
<i>Jim Steeley</i>	<i>John Cisler</i>	<i>The Family of Betty Schultz</i>
<i>Elijah Krout</i>	<i>Jon Smyrl</i>	<i>The Family of Barry Finnemeyer</i>
<i>Dee Mancuso</i>	<i>Beth Brown</i>	<i>Dave Krum</i>
<i>Joe Hopkins</i>	<i>James Roney and family</i>	<i>The Family of Ralph Adams</i>
<i>Thomas Hudson</i>		
<i>Pastor Josh Reinsburrow and his son, Henry and Danny Wagner</i>		

SUMMER SNACKS FOR STEPPING STONES:

Over the course of the summer months, Stepping Stones will be taking advantage of the Federal Free Food Program for children. The summer program Stepping Stones is using, only supplies food for a lunch and one snack a day for each child. To help defray the cost of the “second snack of the day”, there needs to be additional foods provided.

We are collecting snack foods over the summer months to support this program. Please bring in any items on the following list to help our children. Large-package quantities will be divided into individual bags for the children by their teachers. Look for the collection basket in the Narthex for your donations.

The snacks needed by Stepping Stones are:

- Teddy Grams
- Goldfish
- Cheezits
- Graham Crackers- squares
- Individual Cracker Packages
- Animal Crackers

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please ask Joyce Salter or MC Reilly



The best week of the summer!

- New friends • Amazing experiments
- Creative games • Lip-smacking snacks
- Surprising adventures • Incredible music

Location: _____ Grace Lutheran Church
(church name)

VBS will last from: _____ July 16th to July 20th
(VBS dates)

Each day's fun begins at: _____ 6:00 pm (DINNER INCLUDED!)
(VBS starting time)

The VBS day ends at: _____ 8:30 pm
(VBS ending time)

For more information, call: _____ Church Office: (215) 855 - 4676
(church phone number)

Serving Schedule; Communion Choice; Thanks

June	4	11	18	25
Communion Assistant	Richard Badman	Bob Reilly	Andrea Roney	Lori Pluda
Lector	Jean Shaffer	Beth Krout	Lori Pluda	Betty Murray
Acolyte	Olivia Stone & Leela Morcom	Wyeth Slugg	David Kunkel	NA
Ushers	Don Capanear & Al Lund	John & Bonnie Stangl	Rich Woltmann & Harold Schaefer	Tom Lewis & Matt Slugg
Greeters	Barb Watts	Lori Pluda	Lori Pluda	Lori Pluda
Flower Delivery	Kitty Heckler	Kitty Heckler	Jeff & Beth Krout	Lori Pluda
Children's Activity	Laura & Matt Slugg	Beth & Jeff Krout	Tami & Jillian Sarm	TBD

Altar Guild: Rich & Emily Woltmann / Ginny Williams
Council Duties: Carol MacDonald

Communion Choice: Beginning on Sunday, June 4th, **white grape juice** will be available for you to choose during communion. The white grape juice will be in small communion cups in a silver tray on a table which will be located at the right front row of chairs near the altar. As you approach the altar you may take a glass from the tray with you to the altar. When the chalice is brought to you, you will drink the cup of grape juice.

THANK YOU to everyone who purchased carnations for our Mother's Day Project. The 138 pink and white carnations looked so beautiful by the altar. The funds from this project help Nehemiah's Way provide much needed services to the victims of domestic violence. Thanks for your generosity!!

The Giving in Service Team

Many Thanks for your thoughtfulness and the Anniversary cards.

Jerry and Arline Kratz

The **Summer Worship Schedule** will have one service at 9:15 am and no **Sunday School**. There will be Communion each Sunday and a Children's Story and Activity each week. Calvary Korean Church will use the sanctuary each Sunday starting at 12:30 pm.

Thu Jun 1, 2017 7:30 Kirby-Smith Crystal Appeal Planning Meeting

Sun Jun 4, 2017 Pentecost

9:15 am Communion
12:30 pm Calvary Korean Service

Mon Jun 5, 2017 7:15pm Stewardship
7:30pm Christian Connections Team

Tue Jun 6-12, 2017 Pastor Vacation Days
If a need, call Pastor Kim Guiser (215-723-7514) from Emmanuel, Souderton

Tue Jun 6, 2017 7pm Stitchers
Wed Jun 7, 2017 11am WELCA picnic at Salters
7pm Stepping Stones board

Sun Jun 11, 2017 Holy Trinity

9:15am Communion—Pastor Berntsen, supply pastor
12:30pm Calvary Korean Service

Tue Jun 13, 2017 7:15pm Worship and Music
Wed Jun 14, 2017 11am Bible Study
Fri Jun 16, 2017 6pm Wedding Rehearsal
Sat Jun 17, 2017 10am Shaffer/Shelly Wedding

Sun Jun 18, 2017 Father's Day / Newsletter Info. Due

9:15am Communion
12:30pm Calvary Korean Service

Tue Jun 20, 2017 7pm Church Council
Thu Jun 22, 2017 6pm Wedding Rehearsal
Fri Jun 23, 2017 6pm Clegg/Hercoline Wedding @ Joseph's Catering

Sun Jun 25, 2017 First Sunday of Summer

9:15am Communion
12:30pm Calvary Korean Service
2pm An Afternoon with Katie Luther—Advent, Harleysville

Tue Jun 27, 2017 10am Newsletter Mailing
Wed Jun 28, 2017 11am Bible Study
6:30pm Summer Picnic Gathering

MUSIC BUDGETS

HOW TO MAKE THE CHURCH WORSHIP AND MUSIC BUDGET WORK

How much money should the church set aside for the church worship and music budget? Good question.

My belief is that worship is the top priority of the church. No debate. After all, when Jesus was asked, "What is the greatest commandment?" He didn't say "The Pulpit", nor did He point to evangelism, missions, Sunday School, buildings, youth ministry. Simply put, it is to love God.

That settles it. The top priority of the church is to love God. Granted, we do that in a variety of ways; but the primary way, I believe, is through worship.

Those of you who know me know that I could write or talk about this until next year's crop comes in. So, let me just say it and go on.

In the corporate worship setting, how do we most express our worship to the Lord? Through music! I believe that music is the greatest gift God has given us to worship Him---bar none. God has shown us in the Bible that He reveals Himself through music that is offered to Him in worship. Let me leave this topic and go on.

If worship is the top priority of the church, and if music is the greatest gift God has given us to worship Him, how important ought the worship and music budget of the church be? Another good question.

Not that the amount of money budgeted for your program should be the largest budget for the entire church, but why not? ***Love god with all you heart, soul, mind and strength!*** That just might call for greater financial support for the worship life of the congregation than originally thought.

As a general rule of thumb, I believe that the local church should budget ***a minimum of 10%*** of the total church budget for worship and music. Yes, I'm including salaries in that figure, but only the salaries of the church musicians under contract---not the Pastor's salary. He is a special category unto himself.

If a church's annual budget is \$ 300,000.00, your annual music budget should be in the \$ 30,000.00 range. There are many churches with annual budgets in the \$ 750,000.00 category and higher, yet the music budget is still around \$ 30,000.00 Tragic!

Only the individual church can set up the budget for their church to meet their specific needs and to go forward in accomplishing their goals.

The Grace website now has council and other team minutes in the Members-only section. You can get to that page by clicking on the Volunteer Information dropdown menu item under Worship and Music item on the green bar on the home page. The direct link to this page is: <http://gracelutheranhatfield.org/worship-and-music/volunteer-information/>. Once you get to the Volunteer Information page, scroll down to the "Looking for..." section and clicking on the "Members-only section" text and enter the user name: grace-member, and current password. Alternately you can click on the Members-only Page listed under Pages on the right side of the Contact, Stepping Stones, Worship and Music. If you would like to get in to that section, but don't know the password, please ask one of the communication team members (Bonnie Stangl, Harold Schaefer, Laura Slugg, Patti Kennedy, or Pastor Lutcher) or better yet provide your email to Patti and get on the list to get Grace Updates and get an email whenever the password changes.

BOOKS FOR BABIES:

Our collection of Books for Babies grew well beyond all expectations thanks to all of your efforts. My original goal was for us to collect and donate 100 new hard-backed baby books to Mitzvah Circle Foundation. I am very proud to announce you all have exceeded this goal. We collected 172 baby books from Grace Lutheran Church and friends, and an additional 55 books for older children from Ken Delmar's friend, Lisa, a children's books librarian. Emmanuel EC donated 15 baby books for a grand total of 242 books. We were also wonderfully surprised by an anonymous donation of money for this cause. Along with the books, Grace donated two baby afghans and EEC donated one baby afghan.



Fran, Karen, and Rachel of Mitzvah Circle Foundation were thrilled with this donation and took lots of pictures. Thank you to Kitty Heckler, Barb Watts and Bob Reilly for helping deliver the books.

I know all of these donations will have a huge impact on the smallest of children whose families are struggling with crisis. Many thanks for all of your support helping to prepare our future generations. We will never know just how far reaching our efforts will go.

Since this project was so successful, we will be collecting Books for Babies in the future. Also, if you have gently used children's books and are ready to find a new home for them, consider donating to Mitzvah Circle Foundation. Every child gets one book with their clothes. Studies have shown there is only one book for every 300 families who live in the poverty.

Mary Catherine Reilly



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See More Important Details Inside