

Parish News

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

A Letter from Pastor

November 2017

"Martin Luther and Thanksgiving"

Dear Members and Friends in Christ.

As I write this article for the November newsletter, we are just days away from the important celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Most of my pastor's letters this year have focused on one aspect or another on the life and teachings of Martin Luther. In November, we also celebrate a national day of Thanksgiving on November 23, earlier in the month than most other years. Hopefully, it doesn't just mean more shopping days from Black Friday until Christmas! I do hope that you will begin the holiday right with worship on Wednesday, November 22, as we gather at Heidelberg UCC in Hatfield with other United Church of Christ sisters and brothers to give thanks to God for all we have received as individuals, families, congregations, and a nation.

So what does Luther have to do with Thanksgiving anyway? In fact, the Reformation began nearly a century before the Pilgrims' arrival to America and the traditional story of Thanksgiving after a hardship winter. But I do think we can borrow what Luther believed in a spiritual and prayerful observance of the day.

One needs to look no further than Luther's explanation to the First Article of the Apostles Creed, "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth", in his two catechisms, the Small Catechism and the Large Catechism. A catechism is an instruction book for the faith written in the form of questions and answers. Luther's Small Catechism was written primarily use in the home, so parents could teach

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their children the basics of the faith. On the other hand, the Large Catechism was a more detailed explanation of the Small Catechism, much of it from created from sermons delivered by Luther himself to his congregation in Wittenberg in 1528.

In the Large Catechism, Luther sees God the Father as the one who creates and sustains us- body, soul, and life. He provides all physical and temporal blessings -- including good government, peace, and security. Luther wrote, "None of us has life...from ourselves, nor can we by ourselves preserve anything, however small and unimportant. All this is comprehended in the word, "Creator". Luther further goes on to say that God daily guards and defends us from every evil and misfortune, "out of pure love and goodness, without our merit, as a kind father who cares for us."

We are called to remember this relationship "in every blessing that comes our way." But it does not just apply to the good things in life, "Whenever we escape distress or danger, we should recognize how God gives and does all of this so that we may sense and see in them his fatherly heart and his boundless love towards us. Thus our hearts will be warmed and kindled with gratitude to God and a desire to use all these blessings to his glory and praise."

I hope you take some time in this gift of a Thanksgiving season to consider what the Lord has provided for you, the ways he has encouraged, protected and sustained you; and the difficulties and hardships the Lord has accompanied you with strength and love for the journey. See you in church!

Together in Ministry,

+ Pastor Dave Lutcher

Pastoral Acts on September 24, 2017:

 Baptized Moira Alyssa Reiss, daughter of Justin and Ashley Plawa-Reiss, and Meilani Alyssa Hartshorn, daughter of Gregory and Jessica Hartshorn.



MARK THESE DATES on your Calendar:

- Wednesday, November 22nd Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at 7:30 pm at Heidelberg UCC
- Saturday, December 2nd Hatfield Community Christmas Tree Lighting at 6:30 pm Pet Photos with Santa will take place from 3 pm to 5 pm on the terrace at Grace followed at 5 pm – 6:15 pm with crafts and food in our Fellowship Hall.
- December 3rd First Sunday in Advent 8 am and 10:30 am communion services
 9:15 am Sunday Church School
 2018 Budget Meeting following the 10:30 worship service
- **December 10**th Second Sunday in Advent 8 am communion service and 10:30 am worship service and 9:15 am Sunday Church School

Pizza for lunch following the 10:30 worship service then Christmas caroling – everyone is invited to join in the fun

- Saturday, December 16th Jesus' Birthday Party from 10 am to Noon
- December 17th Third Sunday in Advent ONE communion service at 10:30 am to celebrate the one year anniversary of the renovated sanctuary and Living in God's Grace Capital Campaign report and 9:15 am Sunday Church School
- Sunday, December 24th Fourth Sunday in Advent
 Sunday Morning Communion Service at 9:15 am



Christmas Eve Services -Sunday, December 24th

4:00 pm Communion Service with candle lighting9:00 pm Communion Service with candle lighting

Sunday, **December 31st - ONE** communion service at **9:15 am**

Celebrating our 31st Year

The Laymen Playmen, Inc.



Thursday Feb. 8 8:00 PM

Friday Feb. 9 8:00 PM

Saturday Feb. 10 2:00 PM

& 8:00 PM

Sunday Feb. 11 2:00 PM

Thursday Feb. 15 8:00 PM

Friday Feb. 16 8:00 PM

Saturday Feb. 17 2:00 PM

& 8:00 PM

Sunday Feb. 18 2:00 PM

TICKETS

Adults \$12.00

Seniors (65+) \$10.00

Students (6 to 18) \$10.00

Children (5 & under) \$5.00

Group discounts & Gift Certificates available

www.laymenplaymen.org



Reservations: 215 - 368 - 9484

All performances at Lansdale United Methodist Church 300 N Broad St. Lansdale PA 19446

Laymen Playmen, Inc. is preparing to present Peter Pan

Rehearsals for *Peter Pan* have started in the Grace Fellowship Hall on most Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays until December 7. The Laymen Playmen Reservations Phone line will be operational starting December 1. See laymen-playmen.org for up to date information on the performances.

Thank you!!! I am SO appreciative of the many thoughtful expressions of concern and care I received in September after breaking my right wrist and requiring surgery. This congregation is filled with big hearts and I'm ever so happy to have been the recipient of so much kindness. With much gratitude – Carol MacDonald

INreach Ministry....please REACH OUT TO US! Sometimes it's easy to keep problems to ourselves and just deal with it, however, that approach can make anyone feel isolated and resentful. Although Grace is a small congregation, we are blest to have INreach volunteers who would love to offer a helping hand or a caring heart to improve your situation. Please take some time to **fill out the INreach flyer** (included in this newsletter) and send it back to us at INreach. We promise to keep your situation confidential.

Serving Nametags – For those of you who Greet or Usher and are frustrated because you can never find your nametag amongst many others in the "box"....we hear you! Each person now only has ONE nametag, with multiple titles tucked into one badge. Please rotate titles as needed. Also, if you're serving and a nametag was not created for you, please let Carol MacDonald know so we can add your nametag for future use. Thank you for your service!!!!

Did you know that you can find community resources on http://

gracelutheranhatfield.org/? They can be found by clicking on the Community resources menu item under Welcome on the green bar or at this direct link: http://gracelutheranhatfield.org/welcome/community-resources/.

New Parking Option: If walking from the parking lot to the main entrance of



Grace is difficult for you, please take advantage of our new parking option. Park your car in the turn-around area by the main entrance. Turn off your car and bring the keys to an usher or greeter who will have a church member move your car to a parking space. After the church service the member will move your car to the turn-around area. We want your Grace experience to be one of worship not worry. Please take advantage of our service to

FYI: 2018 Altar Flower Sponsor sheets are posted on the board in the Narthex. Sign up early to sponsor flowers on your special Sunday. Questions contact Kathy Stawasz.

Photo Policy

We may be taking photos or video recordings during Grace events. You will be giving your consent that any pictures and/or video taken may be published and/or distributed by Grace Lutheran Church (i.e. Facebook, website, promotional materials) by attending these events. Please let Pastor Lutcher, or a church council member, know if you would prefer that you and/or your child's image not be used.

Photo Policy for Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA:

- We try not to post anything that would be embarrassing, objectionable or hurtful to anyone in the photo. If we know someone is shy about such things, we ask them before posting the photo.
- We don't put names as captions with photos (except for pastors/staff or other adult members who have given expressed written consent)
- We will gladly provide credit for who took a particular photo if desired by the photographer, and we would certainly honor any copyright wishes or restrictions.
- We will maintain a secure list of people who do not want their photo published and will not publish photos of the people on the list
- · We will gladly remove any photo immediately upon request.

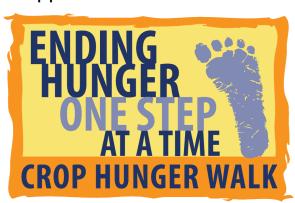
Crop Walk; Adopt-A-Family

North Penn Area CROP WALK Sunday, October 15, 2017

CROP Hunger Walks help children and families worldwide – and right here in the U.S. – to have food for today, while building for a better tomorrow. Our local efforts are making a huge difference... and you are part of it! (from the CROP Walk website)

Sunday, Oct. 15th began with a threat of rain but several members from Grace Lutheran Church did not let that keep them from participating in the 2017 CROP WALK. Their mission: to help raise funding for those in need of food both locally and globally. Thank you to all the sponsors who supported our walkers.

A big THANK YOU to our **Grace Walkers**: Kerry, Olivia and Lindsay Stone, Elizabeth Brigidi, Laura, Wyeth and Micah Slugg, Jean Shaffer, Tami Sarm and Franklin (her four legged companion), Kathy Stawasz, Carol MacDonald and Pastor Lutcher.





Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project 2017

Grace members and friends are invited to provide gifts to families in our area to help them celebrate a traditional family Christmas and to experience sharing gifts with their family. The Hatfield Christmas Committee organizes the gift giving for our area families and delivers these gifts in time for Christmas Day. We know these families are located in our area, but their identities remain confidential. Each family must complete a survey and are carefully screened as far as their immediate needs.

We hope you will plan on doing some Christmas shopping for our families this year. Watch for more information in Grace Notes and for the display in the narthex during the month of November. Suggested items for each family will be available for your choosing. What a wonderful way to begin the Advent Season by giving to one of our families.

The Giving in Service Team – Jean Shaffer, Lori Pluda, Diane Ball,
Carol MacDonald, Mary Jane Moyer, and Kay Stone

As a Reminder - Be prepared for medical emergencies in church

I would gently like to remind everyone to review and be aware of signs and symptoms of stroke. We had an incident in church awhile back where it was realized we should always be aware of situations that we can help with. There is a **Red tackle box in the kitchen, wire shelf to the right of the door, at eye level**, as well as a Red Tackle Box for Band-Aids and such. Included in the box is a copy of the below signs and symptoms, a bottle of Rapid Release Aspirin (under the tongue), which should be given immediately to someone having heart attack symptoms. For the diabetic having low blood sugar there is a couple bottles of Sugar Tablets. And just for comfort measures and things you don't want to **hunt** for, such as personal wipes, rubber gloves, paper towels, emesis bag and a Wrist BP machine and notepad and pencil. Also note that if you call 911 firmly remind them to enter our parking lot across from the Post Office to speed up response time. For more information please visit www.heart.org and watch the Hands Only CPR demo video. Be prepared and ready to jump into action and pray for God's help!!

STROKE occurs when the blood flow to the brain is disrupted, depriving brain tissue oxygen and nutrients. Within minutes, brain cells begin to die. One of all of these symptoms typically come about suddenly.......Common Stroke Strikes **FAST**. You should Too. Call 9-1-1. Know the symptoms of stroke. Learning them—and acting **FAST** when they occur—could save your life or the life of a loved one. Common stroke symptoms include:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg—especially on one side of the body.
- · Sudden confusion, trouble speaking of understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- · Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
- · Sudden severe headache with no known cause

Use the F.A.S.T. Test for recognizing and responding to stroke symptoms:

F = FACE Ask the person to smile. Does one side of the face droop?

A = ARMS Ask the person to raise both arms. Does one drift downward?

S = SPEECH Ask the person to repeat a simple sentence, such "It is sunny today". Does the speech sound strange or slurred?

T = TIME If you observe any of these signs, it's time to call 9-1-1 or get to the nearest hospital. If within 3 hours of onset of a stroke, the patient may be treated with a clot-busting drug called tPA and could reduce the risk of long-term disability and improving the likelihood of a full recovery.

Emergency cont.; Serving Volunteers

NOT ALL the warning signs occur in EVERY stroke. Don't ignore signs of stroke, even if they go away.! Check the time. When did the first symptom start? You will be asked this important question later.



HEART ATTACK WARNING SIGNS:

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense, but MOST of them start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Here are some of the signs that can mean a heart attack is happening:

- Chest discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain.
- Discomfort in other areas of the upper body. Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.
- Shortness of breath. This may occur with or without chest discomfort.
- Other signs. These may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea, or lightheadedness.

If you or someone has these symptoms do not wait. Call 911 immediately, don't wait and think the symptoms will just pass.

It is very important to always be cognizant of medical emergencies when you least expect them, but being calm and prepared helps the person as well as all the responders. Please check out the location of the Emergency Red Tackle Box. Thankyou for your attention. Lori Pluda

Attention all Serving Volunteers.... Thank you for serving in 2017. It is that time of year when we put together the 2018 serving schedule. If you are currently scheduled to serve and do not want to serve in 2018 please let the person in charge know by 12/4/17. If we do not here from you we will keep you on the schedule. We are also looking for NEW volunteers. Please feel free to talk to anyone in charge of a serving area. THANKS!!

8/10:30 - Altar Guild - Emily Woltmann

8/10:30 - Communion Assistants - Carol MacDonald

8/10:30 - Lectors - Karen Seiler

8/10:30 - Acolytes - Kathy Stawasz

8/10:30 - Ushers - Kay Stone

8/10:30 - Greeters - Tami Sarm

8/10:30 - Coffee Hour - Lori Pluda

10:30 - Nursery - Kathy Stawasz

10:30 - Flower Deliver - Kathy Stawasz

10:30 - Paraments - Emily Woltmann

Prayers; Stepping Stones; Altar Guild

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

John Fischer Peg Weaver Don Capanear, Sr.

Carol Buffone Joan Lattanze Ginger Rittenhouse Holnick

Suzanne Colville Laura Cooper Jennifer Kaler-Thomas

Paige Haldeman Ed Chowajsky Hayley Reath

Sue Deitch Nancy Sellers Pam & Fred Matolicz

Al GodshallJoe McGlincheyLaura MorcomJim SteeleyJohn CislerElijah KroutJon SmyrlBeth BrownDave Krum

Joe Hopkins James Roney and family Thomas Hudson

B.J. Moyer-Kuhn The family of Chris McMahon

Pastor Josh Reinsburrow and his son, Henry and Danny Wagner

Stepping Stones - October 2017

Stepping stones is looking forward to an exciting fall. With the warmer temperatures we are able to spend more time out side than usual. Both nursery school and Day Care children had a visit from the Hatfield Fire department. The fire-fighters brought a fire truck for us to see and showed us the hoses and equipment they carry on the truck. They also gave us a presentation about fire safety. The highlight was when they blew the fire siren. A big thank you to the Hatfield Fire company.

The nursery school classes went on trip to Del Val Market where we had a wagon ride around the farm. We visited the pumpkin patch, and we each got to pick a nice orange pumpkin. Then back on the wagon for a ride to the apple orchard where we got to pick apples. What a fun day for our nursery School classes



"Altar Guild is looking for additional members, especially to help with the 10:30 services.

Duties include setting up and cleaning up the bread and wine for communion. Please call or speak to Emily Woltmann if you are interested in helping with this committee. Contact Emily. Thank you.

Ladies Tea; Thrivent Services

Annual Fall Ladies Tea

Saturday November 4th 2-4pm "Come take a trip down Memory Lane"

We invite you to bring something to share, display and/or talk about something from your past that was significant which shaped who you are today. Ideas include actual wedding gown or pictures of, prom pictures, baptismal gowns, Awards, special events that are near and dear to your heart, favorite vacations that you would like to talk about and show pictures of, family tree pictures with description of who all the leaves (or nuts!) are.



Share ANYTHING you would like with us, we are captive audience and would love to hear about your memories of the past. Look for the Tea sign up and display soon, if you have any questions or need to pick my brain as to what you could, would, or should bring or what to talk about, please see Lori Pluda anytime soon. Of course it is not required of all attendees of the tea, but it sure is fun to hear your stories and "trip down your Memory Lane!" (PS, as with all the other years there will be a Silver Platter tray for you to take home and bring back on the day of the tea with your treats)

'Let Us Come Before Him With Thanksgiving'

Psalm 95:2

Thanksgiving is a special time to reflect on all of our blessings. If you'd like to make the most of your God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure Thrivent Financial can help.

We offer:

- Grassroots opportunities for members to help their churches, nonprofit organizations and people in need.
- Opportunities for members to help decide where and how to assist others or just to get together.

Financial solutions to help families protect what they value, leave a legacy, and amplify their charitable giving.

What better time of year to follow your heart? Find out how we've been helping families be wise with money and live generously for more than 100 years.

Contact:

David S. Kratz, Financial Consultant. 215-362-3801

November Calendar

The **Regular Worship Schedule** is an 8 am communion service and a 10:30 am service. Sunday School begins at 9:15 am unless otherwise noted Calvary Korean Church will use the sanctuary each Sunday starting at 12:30 pm. **Laymen Playmen** will be using the fellowship hall starting at 7pm each Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday until December 7.

Wed Nov 1, 2017	10am	WELCA
	6:30pm	Confirmation
Thu Nov 2, 2017	7pm	Choir
Sat Nov 4, 2017	2pm	Ladies Tea

Regular	Schedule - All Saints Day / Coat Blessing
7pm	Stitchers
8am	H3C Coat Distribution
11am	Bible Study
5:30pm	leave Grace for Synod Youth Gathering Event
all day	Synod Youth Gathering Event
	7pm 8am 11am 5:30pm

Sun Nov 12, 2017 Regular Schedule

	9:15am	Capital Campaign Question and Answer Session
Mon Nov 13, 2017	7:30pm	Christian Connections
Tue Nov 14, 2017	7:15pm	Worship and Music
Wed Nov 15, 2017	6:30pm	Confirmation

Nov 16-Nov 20, 2017 Pastor Vacation

Thu Nov 16, 2017	7pm	Choir
Sat Nov 18, 2017	10am	Piano Recital

Sun Nov 19, 2017 Regular Schedule - Dec/Jan Newsletter Info Due Pastor Berntsen preaching

Tue Nov 21, 2017	7pm	Church Council
Wed Nov 22, 2017	Patti Vaca	ation
	7:30	Thanksgiving Eve Service at Heidelberg
Thu Nov 23, 2017	Happy Th	anksgiving! Grace Office Closed

Sun Nov 26, 2017 Regular Schedule - Christ the King Sunday

Tue Nov 28, 2017	10am	Newsletter Mailed
Wed Nov 29, 2017	6:30pm	Confirmation

November	5	12	19	26
Communion Assistant - 8am	David Kunkel	Joanne Moyer	Anna Walter	Ken Seiler
Lector - 8am	Peg Weaver	Peggy Schmidt	Kitty Heckler	Kitty Heckler
Acolyte - 8am	Barry Moyer	Ken Seiler	Al Lund	Anna Walter
Ushers - 8am	Barry & Joanne Moyer	Ken Seiler & Bob Smyrl	Bruce & Peggy Schmidt	Walter Family
Greeters - 8:am	Diane Ball	Diane Ball	Diane Ball	Diane Ball
Communion Assistant - 10:30	Richard Badman	NA	NA	Joyce Salter
Lector - 10:30	Bob Kaler Family	Betty Murray	Carol MacDonald	Charlie Roney
Acolyte - 10:30	Wyeth Slugg	Tara Clegg	Kay Stone	Lindsay Stone
Ushers - 10:30	Tom Lewis & Matt Slugg	Bob Kaler Family	John & Bonnie Stangl	Kay Stone & Kay Deussing
Greeters - 10:30	Dale & Mary Jane Moyer	Tracey Eckert	Dale & Mary Jane Moyer	Barb Watts
Flower Delivery	MC Reilly	Betty Murray	Harold Schaefer	MC Reilly
Nursery	Ginny Williams & Peggy Long	Jaime & Paul Kaler	Tracey Frick & Tara Clegg	Kerry & Frank Stone

Altar Guild - 8am : Nancy Sellers

Altar Guild - 10:30 am : Rich & Emily Woltmann

Council Duties - 8am: Karen Seiler Council Duties - 10:30 am: Bob Kaler

Order Form



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2017



Poinsettias will be available for decoration of our Chancel. Orders are now being taken. The DEADLINE for ordering is Sunday, 12/3/17.

You may pick up your plant after the last Christmas Eve Service or the following Sunday. The plants will be tagged with your name and in memory or in honor of information. Regrettably, we are not able to deliver the Poinsettias to friends or shut-ins.

Please place your order form along with your check in the basket marked for Christmas Poinsettias in the Social Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Stawasz 215-760-6297. Thank you.

Cost - \$7.50	Red - 1 Branched Poinsettia Qty		Pot Size 6"
	2 Branched Poinsettia White Combination	8-12 Blooms Qty.	
	closed:		
In Honor of:			
	here if you do not want your f		



Learning new anthems is like Bible Study and on a regular schedule, builds a strong foundation

With Summer gone, we can reflect upon our past Summers and remember how they were spent in our youth. We had church camps, retreats, family vacations and traveling trips. Remember singing in the car with your family, singing camp songs and hymns at camp?

Then, upon going back to school; remember singing in the school choir and also at Luther League Fellowship? Remember leaving the cherub choir to sing in the children's choir? Next step was singing in the junior choir before you started singing in the senior choir.

Our subsequent lives and dinner conversations have often revolved around that amazing and sometimes mystifying group called "The Choir" and its place in parish life and worship. We have seen our evolving from the Red hymnal to the green hymnal. Next was 'With One Voice' and now The Evangelical Worship Hymnal.

Being raised in music, I have moved to a different place in the chancel. But the years spent in the choir stalls initiated for me the spiritual bond between song and prayer, and I continue to find that bond a rich source of meditation.

My work has taken me into many different churches. While serving with the US Army in Korea, I was asked to be the chapel organist. Upon my honorable discharge, was offered a position in the Drexel University music department. The other two members of the faculty were both church organists and encouraged me to continue to be one.

As a result, my experience of church music has broadened and deepened. I hope that this article in our Parish News will resonate with you, who give your gift of song-along with "the whole company of heaven" to enhance the worship of our Lining Lord.

I've often noticed the similarities between rehearsal and prayer. We may be tempted, for a variety of reasons, to skip prayer. Sometimes when we pray, it seems tedious. However, if we persevere, something begins to happen. We may not notice it during our prayer time, but we will notice if in our lives.

From the console, I can enjoy hearing many good voices singing out the hymns and our liturgy. Those of you with these voices would greatly contribute to enhance our choir in the singing of our anthems!

Ken Delmar Minister of Music



The Reverend David Lutcher dclutcher@comcast.net (h) 215-723-5754

Office Phone: 215-855-4676 Church Office Secretary Patti Kennedy pattikennedy2@verizon.net

Stepping Stones – Glenda Wismer steppingstonesoffice@

> Grace Lutheran Church 40 N. Main St. Hatfield, PA 19440-2905

Parish News: November 2017

Nov 4 Ladies Tea

Nov 8 Community Children's Coat Distribution

Nov 5 All Saints Sunday

Nov 22 Thanksgiving Eve Service at Heidelberg

Nov 26 Christ the King Sunday



See More Important Details Inside