

# **Parish News**

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

Winter **2019-20** 

#### A Letter from the Pastor

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Matthew 1:23

#### Dear Friends at Grace:

One of my earliest faith memories is from Christmas Eve: Deep in the night at my grandparents' church in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, candles lit against the dark, singing *Silent Night.* "Do not be afraid!" the angles said. I was maybe 10 or 12, and wouldn't have known what made the adults around me afraid – we wouldn't have talked about that in my family! But I was beginning to grasp what it meant that God was and God was with us in Jesus.

So many things there are now to make us afraid!

Yet also so many ways we have at Grace to remind us and each other that God is and that God is with us in Jesus. Explore these pages to see how you can bring gifts for families in need, make a year-end offering for our ministry, sing carols or any of a number of things to lift your spirits or calm your fears. We invite you to discover the presence, strength, peace and joy of God in this season.

And we invite you to the wonder of Christmas Eve – Candlelight Worship at 4 and \_\_\_ (with new battery-candles for little hands!) communion, special music... that we might be together to hear the angels sing! Is there someone you'd like to bring with you this year?

Yours in Christ, Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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# Page 2 Blue Christmas worship; Stepping Stones

For those grieving, the holidays can be especially rough. Our sister church in the Indian Valley Cluster, St. Paul's Lutheran in Telford, offers a service to which members and friends of Grace are invited...



For many people the holiday season is not full of the type of joy and happiness that you see in our TV programs and ads this time of year. For some this is the first holiday season without a loved one who has died. Others might be coping with the trauma of divorce, the loss of a job, difficult or challenging changes in their home, school or job. The Blue Christmas service is a time to come together to remember and comfort one another that in the midst of darkness,

Christ brings light. It is a quiet, reflective service and will include an opportunity for each person to light a candle in remembrance of a person or to mark an event in that person's life.

The Blue Christmas service, sometimes known as the "Longest Night" service, will be held on **Sunday December 15**<sup>th</sup> **at 2:30 PM**, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on 107 W. Lincoln Ave in Telford. This service is open to the community. Mark your calendars and plan on attending, tell your friends and family.

# **Stepping Stones Update**

Wow! What a year 2019 has been and before we know it, 2020 will be the new norm! We've had a fantastic start to our school year and now we're getting into the holiday spirit with a pajama and hot cocoa party, our Christmas Program and some say Santa will be coming to visit us! We can't wait! The new year will ring in shortly after as we celebrate our school and love of learning! We look forward to the book fair, the read-a-thon, and national school choice week! We can't wait to tell you all about it!

Jessica Moran Director Stepping Stones Nursery School and Day Care

# **YOGA (Hatha) CLASS Back by Popular Demand.**

Class will be on Wednesday each week through December 11, 2019 (except 11/27/19) from 6:30-7:30 pm. - All-levels. Poses and sequences will work on using all parts of the body, and will vary from week to week. This will be suitable for those with some yoga experience but also for anyone with little to none, as options will be offered for the various poses. The goal is to work on strength and flexibility gradually while gaining an ability to focus on breath and awareness.

WHERE: Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

40 N. Main Street, Hatfield, PA

COST: \$5/class or \$65 for all 13 classes

(Make checks payable to: Grace Lutheran Church)

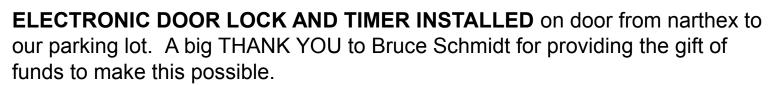
WHO: Ages 18 and up

What is needed: exercise mat

(let me know if you need one)

Invite a friend or family member everyone is welcome.

Contact Kathy Stawasz interested.





We all have treasured people in our lives that we are thankful for and want them to know it —- so during the month of November and early December, let's take the time to send them a note to tell them how much we care.

In the narthex you will find "the golden treasure table", assortment of Christmas cards, pens (and glue if the envelope has lost its stick) and a church directory inside a blue binder. Sit down, write your card and add any sentiments, sign your name or not, write the name, address etc, and place it in the gold star flat box. The Inreach Team will mail all the cards the second week in December. Everyone loves to receive tangible gifts of thought in the mail, not just e-cards—You have the power to make someone's day! Thankyou and Bless You!!!

## **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 the Pastor or a Church Council member know if you would prefer that you and/or your child's image not be used.

#### Page 4 **Laurel House; Prayers**

## Laurel House Valentine's Day Project 2020

The Giving in Service Team invites you to support our Valentine's Day Project for Laurel House. We will collect items for the mothers and children of Laurel House which provides shelter and care for abused women and children of Montgomery County. Please check out the display in the narthex during January and February and pick up a wish list of items needed for Laurel House. Consider adding one or two of these items to your shopping list. Please drop off your gifts by Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>.

What is Laurel House? Laurel House is a comprehensive domestic violence agency, providing supportive and preventative services throughout Montgomery County. Through the help of local churches and community groups, the women and children are provided with everyday supplies and personal care items.

# Please keep the following people in your prayers:

John Fischer Elijah Krout Doug Boldon Ralph and Carol Buffone Dale Moyer Joan Lattanze

Suzanne Colville Laura Cooper Jennifer Kaler-Thomas

Wendy Amparano Paige Haldeman Bob Kaler

Marilyn Homan Nancy Sellers Pam Matolicz

Ron and Karen Hudson Cindy Kunkel Lisa Kane

Dorene Bobb Beth Brown Annette Bever Joe Hopkins Cassi Lambert Liz Bauer

Keira Drissel Andy Armstrong (Friend of MacDonalds) Kristopher Yoder Mandie and Emmett Gerry Mason Bill Shaffer Margaret Stangl Xavier Jackson

Pastor Lee (Phila. Korean Church) Cindy Mancuso

Diane Graham Miller (Friend of the Walter Family)

Jessica Murphy who was recently deployed to Qatar (Joan Amundsen's granddaughterin-law and Liana Murphy's Aunt

For all who grieve, including: The family and friends of Charles' Roney's mother; Bob Darde; Fred Matolicz; Emily Stangl (John's niece); Lillian Buschman (Kerry Stone's grandmother); Shannon Ryan; Chip and Anne Wood; John C. Stalder (Bruce Schmidt's uncle).

# Minister of Music; Sweets; Beer Exchange; Thanks

#### **Minister of Music**

Music Setting 8: over the next several weeks, I will incorporate the melodies of this music into worship as part of helping us learn this newer setting for worship. You will hear some of the melodies as part of worship along with times to sing parts of this setting. It is anticipated that we will have a chance to sing the entire setting in the New Year. It is a rhythmic and melodic setting that I will accompanying on both the piano or organ. The Worship and Music team believes this new setting will be inspiring and I've agreed to the opportunity to introduce it to you.

Christmas is indeed a magical time of year and I know Grace Church has a number of songs and musicians that are part of Christmas services that make it special. Please be sure to reach out to me over the next few weeks if you'd like to be part of this season's music. Most of all, please know how much I hope everyone enjoys this holiday and the gift of being friends and family at Grace Church.

Kevin, Minister of Music

**SAVE THE DATE** for the First Annual Grace Beer Exchange. On Sunday, January 26 from 2-4:00, reserve time for a fun afternoon of exchanging some great beers. Light lunch will be served and a few surprise activities will be planned. Details will follow shortly. For questions about the event, contact Lou Farrell or Frank Stone Sr. . You will be well stocked for the Super Bowl the following week

# **Sweets for Sharing**

Baking this holiday season? Can you bake an extra dozen for someone that can use something sweet to brighten up their holiday? Drop your cookies or candies off in the kitchen or at 155 Forrest Way, Hatfield by December 11th by 6:30 pm. Then join the InReach Team in packing them up at 7 pm. We guarantee you will have fun!

## **Soupathon Thanks**

A big thank you to all the soup makers that helped the InReach team during the Soupathon. We sold 29 containers of soup!

# **December Serving Schedule**

Dec	1	8	15	22	29
Communion Assist -8am	David Kunkel	One	Joanne Moyer	David Kunkel	One
Lector - 8am	Kitty Heckler	Service	Bruce Schmidt	Kitty Heckler	Service
Acolyte - 8am	Walter Family	at	David Kunkel	Kitty Heckler	at
Ushers -8am	Walter Family	9:15 am	Davie Kunkel	Peggy and Bruce Schmidt	9:15am
Greeters - 8am	Peggy Schmidt	See below:	Peggy Schmidt	Peggy Schmidt	See below:
Altar Guild - 8am	Wendy Walter		Wendy Walter	Wendy Walter	
Comm. Assist 10:30	Joyce Salter	Andrea Roney	NA	Bob Reilly	
Lector - 10:30am	Carol MacDonald	Bob Reilly	Tami Sarm	Laura Slugg	TBD
Acolyte - 10:30am	Jayson Tula & Wyeth Slugg	Walter Family	Olivia & Kay Stone	Seth & Gianna Hercolini	TBD
Ushers - 10:30am	Harold Schaefer & Rich Woltmann	John & Bonnie Stangl	Kaler Family	Kay Stone & Jeff Krout	TBD
Greeters - 10:30am	Mary Jane & Dale Moyer	Jeff & Beth Krout	Kay Deussing	Tracey Frick	TBD
Altar Guild - 10:30am	Kay Stone & Tami Sarm	Wendy Walter	NA	Kay Stone & Tami Sarm	TBD
Flower Delivery	Harold Schaefer	Lori Pluda	Jeff & Beth Krout	MC Reilly	Kay Stone
Nursery	Kathy Stawasz & helper	Slugg Family	Kerry & Lindsey Stone	Jamie Snyder & Helper	NA

Council Duties: 8am - Bob Smyrl

10:30am - Kay Deussing

Our **Regular Worship** will be an 8am Communion Service and a 10:30am service with communion on the 1st and 4th Sundays. Sunday School will be at 9:15am unless otherwise noted. Calvary Korean Church will use the sanctuary each Sunday starting at 12:30 pm.

Sun Dec 1, 2019	Regular V	Norship Schedule
	6:00 pm	Cub Pack 510
Tue Dec 3, 2019	7:00pm	Stitchers
	7:00pm	Laymen Playmen Rehearsal
Wed Dec 4, 2019	10:00am	WELCA
	11:00am	Bible Study at Grace
	6:30pm	Yoga
	7:30pm	Communications Team
Thu Dec 5, 2019	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat Dec 7, 2019	3:00pm	Pet Photos with Santa followed by crafts and food
at Grace & 6:30 Hatfield Boroug	•	ld Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Plaza

Sun Dec 8, 2019	9:15am C	ne Worship Service - no SCS
	10:30am	Transition Workshop
	6:00pm	Cub Pack 510
Mon Dec 9, 2019	7:30pm	Christian Connections
Tue Dec 10, 2019	7:15pm	Property Committee
	7:15pm	Worship and Music
Wed Dec 11, 2019	6:30pm	Yoga
	7:00pm	Sweets for Sharing
Sat Dec 14, 2019	10:00am	Jesus Birthday Party
Sun Dec 15, 2019	Regular \	Norship Schedule
	11:30am	Decorating Church / Adopt-a-family deadline
Mon Dec 16, 2019	6:30pm	TLT Meeting
Tue Dec 17, 2019	7:00pm	Council
Wed Dec 18, 2019	11:00am	Bible Study at Grace
Thu Dec 19, 2019	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Fri Dec 20, 2019	6:30pm	Cub Pack 510 Meeting
Sun Dec 22, 2019	Regular \	Norship Schedule
	Christmas	s Caroling after Worship
Tue Dec 24, 2019	4:00pm	Candlelight and Communion Worship
	9:00pm	Candlelight and Communion Worship

Merry Christmas - office closed

Wed Dec 25, 2019

# Page 8 Calendar cont.; Laymen Playmen

10:00am

Tue Jan 28, 2020

Sun Dec 29, 2019		Worship/Communion - Lessons & Carols ay School
Wed Jan 1, 2020 Thu Jan 2, 2020		w Year - office closed Choir Rehearsal
Sun Jan 5, 2020 Tue Jan 7, 2020 Wed Jan 8, 2020 Sat Jan 11, 2020	7:00pm 10:00am 6:30pm	Norship Schedule Stitchers WELCA TLT Meeting & Esther Lee Wedding
Sun Jan 12, 2020 Mon Jan 13, 2020 Tue Jan 14, 2020 Thu Jan 16, 2020	7:30pm 7:15pm 10:00am	Norship Schedule Christian Connections Worship & Music HC3 at Family Heritage Restaurant Choir rehearsal
<b>Sun Jan 19, 2020</b> Tue Jan 21, 2020 Wed Jan 22, 2020 Fri Jan 24, 2020	7:00pm 6:30pm	Norship Schedule - newsletter items due Council TLT Meeting Cub Scout Pack 510
Sun Jan 26, 2020	6:00pm	<b>Norship Schedule</b> Cub Scout Pack 510 Beer Exchange Event



Newsletter mailed

Coat Drive Page 9

#### **Coat Drive 2019**

At the ribbon cutting of the new Hatfield Borough building, one of the speakers said Hatfield was a "Small town with a Big heart". That logo couldn't have been more evident with this year's Annual Coat Drive. Members of our Hatfield Community both Borough and Township rallied together to make this huge project the success it was.

This event started out five years ago as a tiny seed of need. A four year old little girl came to preschool on a very wintry and snowy day in a sweatshirt and summer clothes. This little one was clothed and taken care of by the end of the day with not only a coat and proper clothing but additional clothes appropriate for the cold season and food for the family. From this need it became apparent the need of new winter coats was not just for a few families. This year we were able to supply 75 families with 195 new winter coats.

We also had 31 helpers on the day of the coat distribution as well as helpers setting up and then returning the area back to its regular day functions.

The mission of taking care of our own Hatfield Community has blossomed into a gathering of resources and helping hands, and it is wonderful to witness. The organizations who participated were the Hatfield American Legion, Bethany Bible Fellowship Church, Emmanuel EC Church, Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield Church of the Brethren, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Vincent De Paul.

The Hatfield Community Christian Coalition, H3C, sponsors a number of Hatfield Community projects each year and this is one of the largest projects they organize and administer.

There are not enough words to say thank you to everyone who donated their gifts of coats, money, hats and gloves and time. One retired lady, knits all year for this event and she donated over 100 hats alone. Thank you Bertha M.

Your generosity is overwhelming. God Bless you all.

Mary Catherine Reilly, H3C

Page 10 January Serving Schedule

	_	40	10	•
Jan	5	12	19	26
Communion Assist -8am	Joanne Moyer	Anna Walter	David Kunkel	Andrea Roney
Lector - 8am	Kitty Heckler	Bruce Schmidt	Mickey Koffel	Karen Seiler
Acolyte - 8am	Ken Seiler	Anna Walter	Lori Pluda	David Kunkel
Ushers -8am	Ken Seiler & Bob Smyrl	Walter Family	Peggy & Bruce Schmidt	Don Capanear & Dave Kunkel
Greeters - 8am	Janice Swartz	Janice Swartz	Janice Swartz	Janice Swartz
Altar Guild - 8am	Janice Swartz	Janice Swartz	Janice Swartz	Janice Swartz
Comm. Assist 10:30	Bob Reilly	Dan Sarm	NA	Jaime Snyder
Lector - 10:30am	Betty Murray	Betty Murray	Rich Badman	Micah Slugg
Acolyte - 10:30am	Kay & Sam Stone	Olivia & Sam Stone	Micah Slugg & Kathy Stawasz	Seth & Gianna Hercolini
Ushers - 10:30am	Kaler Family	Matt Slugg & Jeff Krout	Rich Wolt- mann & Harold Schaefer	Kay Stone & Kay Deussing
Greeters - 10:30am	Dan & Tami Sarm	Dan & Tami Sarm	Dan & Tami Sarm	Liz Bauer
Altar Guild - 10:30am	Emily & Rich Woltmann	Bonnie Stangl	NA	Emily & Rich Woltmann
Flower Delivery	Lori Pluda	MC Reilly	Kathy Stawasz	MC Reilly
Nursery	Jamie Snyder & Crystal Tula	Kerry & Lind- sey Stone	Slugg Family	Jeff & Beth Krout

Council Duties: 8am - Laura Kratz

10:30am - Carol MacDonald

#### On the Move:

Dale & Mary Jane Moyer are now living at: 107-D Menno Drive Souderton, PA 18964
They have a new home phone number but their cell number has not changed.



# **Special Advent Events**

12/15 after 10:30 am worship: Help **decorate the sanctuary** this year to carols played by Kevin, cocoa and home-made cookies!

Many hands make light the work of finishing decorating the tree and assembling the decorations in the sanctuary? Do you want to join in the fun? You're invited! All ages.

12/22 after 10:30 am worship: **Caroling**: We'll become a roving band of carolers visiting some of our homebound members. Light lunch provided before we head out, then on for a few stops to carol and bring cheer to those who can no longer get out so easily. Fabulous singers not required, just a warm heart! You're invited!

# Jesus Birthday Party Saturday December 14th 10am-12Noon

All invited to join in on some Christmas fun, Sing carols, learn what a phonograph is, make crafts, learn about Chrismons, snacks and Birthday Cake for Jesus, and then a surprise visit from?

This is a great parent child, grandma, grandpa event,

Won't you please join us?

**RSVP** to Lori Pluda

## Page 12 Poinsettia Order Form



# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2019



Poinsettias will be available for decoration of our Chancel. Orders are now being taken. The DEADLINE for ordering is Sunday, 12/8/19.

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 Narthex. 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"
Cost - \$12.00	2 Branched Poinsettia	8-12 Blooms	Pot Size 7"
Red & White Combination		Qty	
Total \$ Amount Er	nclosed:	-2	
In Honor of:			
Ordered by:		_Phone No	



# Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project 2019

The weather is turning chilly and candles are appearing in the windows of many homes. Decorations for the season are available in our stores. The anticipation for the coming Christmas Season is here. For many of us it is a time of joy and excitement. For others in our community, it is a time to concern for how they will provide for their families at this time of the year.

Grace members and friends are invited to provide gifts for 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.

Check out the display in the narthex. Suggested items for each family are available for your choosing. Angel Gifts are also needed for our families. These household items cannot be purchased with food stamps. 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 Mac-Donald, Mary Jane Moyer, and Kay Stone

WELCA will meet Wednesday, December 4th at 10am at Grace. We will organize the Christmas Cards for Shut-ins, have a Bible Study and enjoy a "Dutch Treat" lunch at a nearby restaurant. Our January meeting will be on January 8th at 10am. We will have a Bible Study. Bring a brown bag lunch. Come and join us for either or both meetings!

# Page 14 Angel Boxes; Year-end Gifts

# **Christmas List for Angel Boxes**

There are pockets of poverty in our area where families of great needs cannot purchase specific items with food stamps. Items like shampoo, soap, tooth paste or tooth brushes are not able to be purchased with food stamps.

This year we are collecting the items on the Christmas List to help support Oak Park Elementary School and additional local families who all need our help this Christmas. We will be assembling a total of 90 "Angel Boxes" December 15<sup>th</sup> at the Hatfield Fire House beginning at 12noon. Sixty five of these boxes will go directly to the families in stress at Oak Park Elementary School.

We see some of these needs with the families at the local food cupboards, at the annual back pack distribution and the annual coat drive. Help us bring back dignity to our families in need.

Please consider donating any of the items listed to help us, help our neighbors. We are giving a "Hand up and not a Hand out". You can bring your donations to Grace Church and put them in the Narthex (hallway). Many thanks. See MC Reilly for any questions you may have.

We are collecting for 90 families.

Paper towels
Floor cleaner
Toothpaste/tooth brushes
Shampoo
Deodorant
Shower Gel/Body Wash
Hand Cream

Sponges
Toilet paper
Kleenex
Liquid Dish Detergent
Liquid Hand Soap
Bar Soap



We welcome your year-end gifts to Grace's ministries. Please have them post-marked by 12/31 to count as 2019 contributions. We are grateful for all of your gifts of support! They are life-sustaining.

# **Grateful Grace; New Office Admin**

# Grateful Grace

Our Grateful Grace program began in 2012 as a result of the heartfelt response that was provided to Grace after our educational building (built in 1904) was destroyed by fire December 31, 2011. Our Grace community received so many kind gifts, some of them from complete strangers, that we wanted to be able to share with others who have experienced a challenge caused by fire or some type of disaster. **January** is the dedicated month for Grateful Grace Offering, however a gift is acceptable anytime. A Grateful Grace envelope is included in your 2020 offering envelope box.

Our gifts from Grateful Grace have reached out to neighboring states and as far away as Puerto Rico.

- 2013 Pomeria Lutheran Church in South Carolina
- 2014 Lazarus United Church of Christ in Lineboro, Maryland
- 2015 Faith Lutheran Lavallette, New Jersey
- 2016 Christ United Methodist Church, Selinsgrove, PA
- 2017 Our Savior Lutheran Church in Gatlinburg, Tennessee
- 2018 Puerto Rico through the Caribbean Synod, ELCA
- 2019 The Filling Station, Pollocksville, North Carolina

2020 will be our 8<sup>th</sup> year of giving forward to another neighbor in need. We have decided that this year, since we have just experienced the joy of completing the building, getting the escrow back, and are now moving forward, we have a special message of hope to give to another church that has just experienced a fire. God can carry you through!

Thank you for your support of the Grateful Grace program as we continue our outreach to other churches that have experienced a catastrophic loss.

Council has hired musician Kevin Freaney to hold the position of Office Administrative Assistant, in addition to his Minister of Music position, beginning 11/18, for a 3 month trial. Generally office hours will remain the same: Mondays through Thursdays, 9 am through Noon. Welcome him when you next call or stop by!



Office Phone: 215-855-4676

Church Office:

Kevin Freaney Admin:

graceassistant40@gmail.com

Pastor Janet Peterman, Interim

Cell: 215-327-8727

pastorgracehatfield@gmail.com

Stepping Stones(215-369-2052) Jessica Moran, Director steppingstonesoffice@ verizon.net

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

## **Important Dates**

Dec 7 Hatfield Pet Photos & Crafts

Dec 8 Transition Workshop - all invited

Dec 14 Jesus Birthday Party Dec 15 Sanctuary Decoration

Dec 22 Caroling

Dec 24 Two Christmas Eve Services



See More Important Details Inside