WORSHIP QUESTONNAIRE

FOR GRACE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Individual Name or Family Name: (please print) ______

After completing your survey, please return to Grace by mail or drop it off at Grace in the mailbox near the Stepping Stones entrance. We want to hear from you. Thanks for taking the time to share your thoughts. <u>Return by Wednesday, June 10th.</u> NOTE: If you receive the survey by email, you may return the survey by email.

ONLINE WORSHIP

Have you been able to watch Grace's Online Worship Services? Yes / No

If yes, in a few words, please tell us what you've liked about the services.

How often have you watched?

_____ every time available _____ about every other week _____ about once a month

Do you watch by yourself or with others? By myself / Sometimes with others / Always with others

Average # of people watching at one time: ____

Have you ever shared the video link to our online service with a friend or family member? Yes / No

Would you like to be a part of the online service as a Lector? Yes / No

Do you have means of recording video or audio? Yes / No

If you cannot view worship online, would you like an audio CD or Video DVD of the service? Yes / No

QUESTIONS FOR YOU ABOUT RETURNING TO WORSHIP

We look forward to returning to worship! We realize the significance our gathering in person has, that returning as a church family is particularly important to many. When we have been given clearance by the governor's office, and following the guidelines of the CDC, we are already planning the kinds of safety measures that will keep you, your family, the staff, our leaders, and any visitors – all of us! – as safe as we can be. We would most likely start with shorter services and keep things simple, as we adapt to these new norms. Please know that we seek to make decisions that take the health and safety of our whole community, and of each family within Grace, into account. We ask you to help us understand your comfort level as we plan.

- 1. Once the stay at home ban is lifted, would you plan to return to worship or wait a while? (Circle one)
 - a. Return once the stay at home ban is lifted
 - b. Wait a while before I return to worship

- 2. We may be able to hold services outdoors when the weather allows us to do so. Would you feel safer indoors or outdoors? (Circle one)
 - a. Feel safer indoors
 - b. Feel safer outdoor, weather permitting

Would you volunteer to set up for or break down an outdoor service? Yes / No Would you be able to bring your own chair? Yes / No

3. If we are permitted to return to worship this summer and depending on recommendations from the State and the CDC, we may not be able to have our usual 9:15 am summer service schedule IF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE IS HIGHER THAN PERMITTED. However, we are working on ways to accommodate people with the circumstances. Along with other churches, we are developing safe measures to not contaminate our worship space and to sanitize areas such as the bathrooms.

Please circle as many options that are comfortable for you.

- a. I'm fine having one service summer worship at 9:15 am
 AND understand sitting in an "overflow" area such as Fellowship Hall may be
 necessary depending on the total number of people permitted by the State per room.
- b. I'd be willing to attend either an 8 am or 10:30 am service to try to avoid an "overflow" however I understand it may be necessary to sit in an overflow area.
- c. I would only attend 8 am service
- d. I would be willing to attend 8 am this summer but normally attend 10:30 am
- e. I would only attend 10:30 am service
- 4. Our Worship and Music committee is working on providing safe methods for communion and looking for ways to exchange the sign of peace. You will hear more about that in the upcoming weeks. For example, we might employ the use of sealed communion wafers and wine (juice) as an option. (Circle one)
 - a. I am ok with trying something new for reasons of being safe
 - b. I would rather have no communion.

Do you have concerns or suggestions to help us in our planning? Take a moment to write down some thoughts that you might like to share. Thank you for taking time to respond and make our efforts to help each other and care for each other.



Parish News

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

A Letter from the Pastor

I said to the person at the gate of the year "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

That person said to me, "Go out into the darkness and place your hand in the hand of God.

"That will be to you better than a light and safer than a known way." -- Minnie Haskyns

Dear Grace Family,

We do not stand at "the gate of the year," but at the edge of next steps that are not in our hands. We have not been here before. So much is unknown! So much fills us with apprehension. We wait with eager longing to be able to be in each other's company again, but in ways that will be safe for each other, that will not undo all the efforts we've done in these months of self-isolation. So much is at stake!

We have never stood here before, but Grace has been through trials before, our country and individuals among us have been through great difficulty before, and God is with us. We face the unknown, but we are not alone.

The face page of this *Parish News* is a survey for you to be able to give us feedback. We have already begun thinking and planning for HOW we can safely gather again for worship, even though we do not know WHEN we will be permitted to return. It will help us in our planning if you would take some time to reflect on the questions we Cont..

June 2020

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have laid out and **return the survey to the church office by Wednesday**, **June 10th**. An email version of the survey will also be sent out as this *Parish News* is mailed. Respond in whichever format works best for you.

I've had the pleasure of working with several teams of people over the last two months of self-quarantine: a newly developed production team to put together online worship; a team of Stepping Stones and Finance leaders who worked to secure the Payroll Protection Program funding to be able to bring the day care staff back to work, even before children can be back in the building; the newly developing Welcome Bread, a sandwich ministry to feed people left hungry by program closures of the pandemic; and with Council as they learned how to meet electronically to continue the work of the church, even when we can't meet face to face. I know: none of these interactions involves the thornier issues of how we gather in person together or handle difficult issues like singing or communing in person. But what I've experienced on these teams gives me confidence that we will be able to handle these more difficult issues in time, for these reasons:

- We are listening to each other, continuing to grow together, counting on the strengths of each other. Our various spiritual gifts, our diversity, is part of our strength, not a liability.
- * We grow in trust of each other, as we show ourselves to be trustworthy.
- When we exercise our creativity together, we are finding new strength and even joy, in spite of the considerable grief and challenges.
- We may be small, but we are mighty!

The LORD of hosts is with us. The God of Jacob is our refuge. God's presence and strength for us is better now even than a light or a known way.

I used to think of waiting as the trouble of certain times of life that I just had to endure, like when a decision was pending that someone else was making. We're in a time of deeper waiting now. We don't know when it will end. That reality asks us to perceive how God might want us to see in and through our waiting new ways to trust Him and each other. How shall we understand new ways to be the Church that God would have us be?

It is the mission of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church To Glorify God To Grow in Faith

Page 3

To Give in Service Together in Christ

Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Janet S. Peterman Interim Pastor

Council Corner

"Never regret a day in your life. Good days give you happiness, bad days give you experience, worst days give you lessons and best days give you memories."

Council, just like you and your families, have had a lot of all of these days lately. We have witnessed the unselfish giving of so many of you as you have prepared PB & J sandwiches for those less fortunate in Philadelphia and in our own communities. We have mourned with members and friends that have lost loved ones during these unprecedented times. And we have smiled joyously as we heard the ringing of the church bells to honor our healthcare workers.

During these times, Council has been meeting, through Zoom, every other week. One week we work on a special topic, such as the PPP grant, the Call Committee establishment and now the Ministry Site Profile. On our second meeting of the month, we do our normal church business. It is challenging and I am sure frustrating for many of us as we try to discuss and make decisions about important topics while not being able to meet face to face.

What you may not know is that a Council member also sits on each committee that Grace has. This way the member can report back to Council firsthand what happens at these meetings, and how Council can help with their activities. All of these committees are now getting into the "swing" of meeting by Zoom. During the next few months, these committees will need your input – please participate as your voice is needed moving forward.

Council continues to work hard in preparation toward calling a new pastor. While I don't consider these to be the "best days" we will have memories of this process for many years to come. Please keep us in your prayers. Peggy Schmidt Council President

In Our Prayers:

John Fischer, Bob Kaler, Wendy Amparano, Suzanne Colville, Pam Matolicz, Paige Haldeman, Nancy Sellers, Laura Cooper, Liz Bauer, Beth Brown, Xavier Jackson, Gerry Maso, Joe Hopkins, Doug Boldon, Carol Buffone, Cassi Lambert, Kristopher Yoder, Annette Beyer, Dorene Bobb, Keira Drissel, Cindy Kunkel, Mandie and Emmett, Ron and Karen Hudson, Lisa Kane, Andy Armstrong (Friend of the MacDonald's), Diane Graham, Miller (Friend of the Walter Family), Cindy Mancuso, Anne Lewis, Joyce Salter, Jim Pluda, John and Bonnie Stangl, Ken Seiler, Sr (Ken's dad), Terry Stringfellow, friend of Dale and Mary Jane Moyer, Hazel Mascaro, Bob Yoder, RJ Bernheiser

For all who grieve, including:

The family and friends of Bob Darde; Fred Matolicz; Lillian Buschman (Kerry Stone's grandmother); Shannon Ryan; Ralph Buffone; Gail Constanzer (Shirley Yoder's sister-in-law); Frank "Chick" Mascaro (Jerry's brother); Millie Anderson, Arline Kratz; Marilynn Homan; Barbara Masser (Ray's wife); Joan Lattanze; Samuel Barndt, cousin of Andrea Roney; Joan Miller; TreMar; Karen Weirbach

Prayers of gratitude: for all who work for the common good in this time of the pandemic – in gratitude for their work and with a prayer for their health, strength, patience, courage and protection; for medical personnel at all levels; for people who staff our grocery stores and collect our trash; for people who work at warehouse stores, post offices and on delivery routes; for volunteers who keep food pantries and food distribution sites open; and for others whom we may forget to mention: We thank you, Lord. Be a source of comfort, healing and strength. **We give thanks to God for John Stangl's successful surgeries.**

Lost to Covid-19:

Elizabeth Coyle, Crystal Tula's great aunt; Charlotte Hutchinson, Jess Moran's grandmother

For those in active duty military service:

Robert McNulty, active duty Marines, basic training Jessica and Kyle Murphy, both active duty Air Force Matthew Smyrl, active duty Army; Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard

Minister of Music

Minister of Music

"These Masks Keep Fogging My Glasses Up, Help!" If you wear glasses and a mask and try talking, that phrase is something people are complaining about more than ever.

The medical community is especially frustrated about this as they must wear masks all day while they're caring for patients and talking to one another. Many medical masks however, have a special component that fixes that, allowing air movement to stay away from going up toward their glasses.

If you're a singer like me and don't have a mask that redirects exhaled air, then you can't see the music and lyrics on the printed page. Help!

But we have been told to wear masks at this time because of COVID19. Singing creates more of an issue with the virus being transmitted much easier.

When we sing, we breathe faster, we breathe deeper and we exhale a lot of warm moist air faster than talking, which causes more of that fog to jump right onto your glasses and into the air.

I found a study that said about 75% of people need some kind of vision correction and most of these folks wear glasses more than contact lenses. Something anyone who wears glasses can try; wash your glasses with soapy water (don't rinse) and wipe dry, or just try letting them air dry. This makes a small film or barrier on the glass which help prevent the fog on your lenses.

Those masks are very important to prevent the virus droplets of moisture from leaping into the air or stop it from being inhaled from an infected person. I know it's frustrating and for some people it might seem like nonsense, but it's a responsibility for all of us, much like wearing a seat belt in a car, protecting you and your loved ones.

Special thanks to all of our music folks who have helped record music for online worship, wearing masks and some with a little fog on their glasses!

My sincere thanks to all who are helping in both big and small ways in our community.



Kevin

Congratulations 2020 Graduates!

Below is the list of graduates associated with Grace as of this writing. Please let us know if we missed anyone so we can congratulate them next month.

North Penn High School:

- Brianna Lawson (Jenny Kaler Thomas's daughter). She is planning to attend Millersville University.
- Bradley Moyer, Jr. He is planning to attend Montgomery County Community College.
- Liana Murphy. She will be attending Eckerd College in Florida studying Marine Biology. She is currently making masks and working with a group of friends to provide themed drive-bys for parties (see ad later in this letter)

Colleges:

- Anna Walter is now a proud Temple Owl graduate with a BS in Finance. Since the current global situation has impacted internships and employment, she is currently seeking a full-time permanent position in her area of study and looking forward to see what the future holds.
- Emily Seiler is graduating summa cum laude from Millersville University with a BS in Occupational Safety and Environmental Health.



Summer Worship Schedule

Bible Story and Craft Time for Children

Plans for Summer Bible Story and Craft are ON HOLD. As we plan for the next steps for Worship at Grace, we may not be able to do a separate Craft time. We will continue to keep you informed as to how we will gather.



June Events

For Worship:

June 7, 14, 21,28

Go to the audio page of the Grace website or Go online in any way (phone, tablet, computer with any browser). Go to www.YouTube.com Search for: Grace Hatfield Services

Sunday services are posted each week about noon on Saturday and will stay available. Find the lessons & prayers on Grace's website:

(https://gracelutheranhatfield.org/worship-and-music/audiovideo/).

Spread the word!

For Sunday School: We're holding Sunday school by Zoom. It's so good to see each other! Contact Laura Slugg for your personal invite (pj's are ok!)

Meetings:

Mon, Jun 1, 2020	4:00pm	Stepping Stones/CARES Act via Zoom
Tue, Jun 2, 2020	•	Pennsylvania VOTES!
Wed, Jun 3, 2020	7:00pm	Church Council via Zoom
June 4-8, 2020	-	Pastor Peterman away
Tue, Jun 9, 2020	7:00pm	Worship and Music via Zoom
Sun Jun 14, 2020		Happy Flag Day
Mon, Jun 15, 2020	4:00pm	Stepping Stones/CARES Act via Zoom
Tue, Jun 16, 2020	7:00pm	Church Council via Zoom
Sun, Jun 21, 2020		Happy Father's Day
		Parish News Articles due for July and August
Tue, Jun 23, 2020	7:00pm	INreach via Zoom
Looking Ahead:	July 22, 202	20 — VBS Night, if we can gather then

Dates may be added depending on the COVID-19 situation. You will be notified by email, phone, or mail when in person gatherings will start.

Stay-At-Home Stories

The Parish News Editor solicited some stories from the Grace Members . The stories received are scattered throughout the following pages of the Parish News. We hope you enjoy them and hope it helps those of you who aren't on the email list to feel more connected to some of our members. If you have a story that you want to share next month, send it to bjkstangl@verizon.net .

Page 8Welcome Bread

Welcome Bread

We got word from Sam, the outreach worker on the streets of Philadelphia who distributes the sandwiches, that people are now requesting our sandwiches specifically. THOSE sandwiches, you know, the ones full of peanut butter and jelly!

Our day remains Tuesday, but Lou Farrell's organizing abilities, and the simple appeal of feeding people who nothing eat, our to original have partnership of Grace, the Welcome Church and St. John's, Ambler has added the 2 Hatfield food cupboards and 6 additional churches! That makes it possible for there to be sandwiches on 3 days of the week, many more snack bags and some toiletry kits.



Feeding is part of what Jesus did, body and soul. Following in his footsteps, we feed and are fed.

Want to help?

- You make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on white bread and put them in ZIPLOC bags, 1 sandwich per bag. Use cheap white bread with gobs of PB and J. A loaf will get you nine sandwiches. Please consider buying two loaves.
- Make the kind of sandwiches that your Mom used to yell at you about. Load them up. We want to fill bellies.
- The cooler will be at the entrance to Grace all day each TUESDAY. Leave your donation in the labeled cooler sometime between 8:00 am and 8:00 pm
- Please email, text or call Lou to let him know how many sandwiches you made. He delivers Wednesday.

Mother's Day Carnations; WELCA

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Thank you to our members who purchased Mother's Day Carnations. The **Pink and White** Carnations were placed by the altar in honor and memory of our mothers. Pictures of the carnations appeared on our May 10th worship service on You Tube (and below). Special thanks for stopping by Grace on Saturday, May 9th to pick up your carnations. It was good to see you!! The funds from the sale of

the carnations will be shared with Laurel House, a local shelter for mothers and children who are victims of domestic violence. The *Giving In Service Team* would like to thank you for participating in our project.



WELCA

Hello ladies, well it's been another month since we couldn't be together and of course there will be no June get together, so that means there will be no picnic which I will miss. That's when you get to see the ladies you don't see at the other meetings. This was my first year as president and much to my surprise I enjoyed it, but I wish we could've been together the whole time. So I hope you have a great summer see you in September. Take care and stay healthy. Barbara Watts

Page 10 At Home Stories; Stepping Stones @Work

Two Stay-at-Home Stories:

1) Things have really changed in my life, I guess to the good. I haven't gone out for lunch, dinner and of course my favorite meal (breakfast) or gone shopping which I really do enjoy!! So now I'm walking a little more and even doing some crafts, and calling friends. The things I do miss are the singing groups I'm in, church and choir, and going to see my friends. The church services have been nice. For me it seems like it's part of normal. Hope to see everyone soon, Barb Watts

2) Hello my name is Kerrie Garges, Joan Roeder's daughter. My mom is staying well. I've been food shopping for her and making her dinner. She is keeping busy by doing her word search puzzles which are hard to keep in stock for her. I take my lap top down to her so she can watch church services on line. Its hard for her to understand why I can't find certain items in the store and she understands when I explain. When the weather cooperates she enjoys sitting outside and watching the wildlife. Phone calls and letters/cards brighten her day. We've had a social distance wedding in April of her grandson Cody and as of today, May 11th, she saw pictures of her great granddaughter Clara.

Back to Work!

Thanks to a Paycheck Protection Program loan which will turn into a grant when spent properly, effective Monday, May 11th, Stepping Stones day care staff was called back to work!

Here is Director Jess Moran in the office. (Staff are primarily working from home, updating files for inspection, preparing and updating curriculum and records and getting ready for the children's return, when it will be allowed.

A great big thank you to Finance and Stepping Stones leaders who worked together to secure the money.



Stepping Stones; Front-line Worker Story

Stepping Stones Update

As we continue to press onward through quarantine, Stepping Stones is beginning to bring its teachers back to work to prepare for re-opening. We've been spending time planning, reaching out to families, and adjusting our curriculum to meet our new world's needs. We are praying for you all and hoping we get to hear some children's laughter ringing through our school's hallways soon!

Jessica Moran, Director

From a Front-line Worker

What it's like to work in a hospital during a pandemic... at first there was fear-fear of an invisible evil, fear of the lack of PPE to protect us, fear of dying as I never expected when I went into nursing 45 years ago that I'd be putting my life on the line someday. Hearing the stories of healthcare workers dying from the virus were frightening. Praying a lot helped.

Fortunately, the virus took its time arriving in this area. That gave us time to gather more PPE, develop plans (that changed hourly some days), learn more about the virus increasing our knowledge that turned into skills. To see the community rally where contractors donated N95 masks and a sewing factory whose workers were laid off come back to work when asked to make masks and scrubs is truly heartwarming. Having the proper protection gave us more confidence to take care of patients who were scared and having difficulty breathing. The saddest part is that the patients are alone.

Giving comfort and support is what we do but we've become family too. We helped a patient celebrate his 90th birthday in the hospital on an ipad with his family who were all outside the main lobby. There will be a new normal, whatever that will be. One thing is for sure the American people rally and roll up their sleeves to get things done. We can't depend on our healthcare system or the government. I thank God and am very grateful for how everyone has pitched in to help get through this pandemic. Fay Forst-Younger Page 12Food Pantry

Food Pantries: Service Through the Heart *Ways we can help...*

Demand at **Hatfield food cupboards** continues to be very high. Our sandwich ministry, newly named Welcome Bread, in honor of the connection with the Welcome Church in Philadelphia, now regularly delivers sandwiches to both Hatfield food cupboards. We invite you, as you are able, to pick up some items for the food cupboard when you resupply your own home.

The food pantry at Emmanuel EEC (100 S Main Street)

Open June 2nd & 17th @ 5:30pm; June11th & 25th @ 1 pm

For food through the Hatfield Church of the Brethren, email <u>hatfieldfood-</u> <u>bank@yahoo.com</u> for an appointment.

Grace gathers non-perishable food items at our entrance in covered bins. As you are able, we invite you to pick up food for a meal or household supplies for a neighbor while you re-supply your own kitchen.

Here's a newly updated list from EEC's Food Cupboard

- Cereal (NOT hot oatmeal)
- Mayo & salad dressings
- Canned peas
- Tomato soup
- Canned olives
- Tea bags
- Coffee
- Dishwashing liquid
- Tissues
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes
- Razors & shave cream (Men & Women)
- Water bottles



Other non-perishable food items and household items also accepted.

Covered bins are at the entrance to Grace for your contributions.

VBS; Transition Church Message

VBS: The current plan is to reserve 7/22/20 on our calendar and if people are allowed to meet in groups by then, have a VBS like PARTY! We can have a picnic, do arts and crafts, play games, sing songs, and have a service project. So please save the date for some sort of fun with your VBS family that week, and in the meantime stay safe and WASH YOUR HANDS!

2020 Hatfield Community VBS EVENT JULY 22nd Times: TBD Hosted by: GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 40 N. Main Street, Hatfield PA 19440 (215) 855-4676 Families welcome to come and enjoy the party together. RSVP: TBD

Check here for more information as it becomes available or "like" us on Facebook at <u>https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranHatfield</u> to stay in the loop!

Questions? Leave a message at the church office for Laura 215-855-4676

An excerpt from SEPA Synod To the Churches of our synod that are currently in transition:

The Pandemic of Covid-19 has brought sudden and drastic changes to our way of life and to the way our congregations of Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod are carrying out their ministries. It is stressful for all of us and certainly for those congregations that are in the midst of pastoral transition. We want to assure you that we are holding all congregations in prayer, and that we are keenly aware of the difficulty that our current restrictions pose for the mobility process. We are also seeking new and creative ways to facilitate the interim and call processes in these trying times.

We ask for your patience and prayers, as we trust the Holy Spirit for guidance and encouragement. Meanwhile, holding on to scripture, and remembering the angel's words to the women at the empty tomb:

"Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said." Matthew 28: 5

Because Christ Lives!, The Office of the Bishop and the Committee of Deans

Page 14Bagged Meals; Thanks; SCS; Picnics

Emmanuel Lutheran Church (69 W Broad St, Souderton, a sister congregation in our Indian Valley Cluster, the small group of Lutheran churches whose pastors regularly meet together monthly, who cover for each other when we are away) has developed a daily meal program since the beginning of this crisis. Anyone may come for a bagged meal; limited social contact. No registration required. No residency requirements. Up to 4 bags a day possible if picking up for a family or for neighbors who can't get out.

6 days a week, Monday – Saturday 11:30 am – 2:00 pm (rear entrance)



Thanks so much for all of your cards, calls, emails and prayers during the time of John's surgeries. We could very much feel the care of the Grace family and all of the virtual hugs. Bonnie, Kim and John Stangl

Sunday School Update

Sunday Church School classes usually stop at the end of May each year because people (including the SCS teachers) start getting busy with nice weather plans and weekends away. It looks like things in the world are going to be a little different this year. So the SCS Team decided that we would continue meeting with the SCS children each Sunday at 9:15am until people are allowed to go out for fun again.

Zoom links will be sent to families ahead of time. Please let Laura Slugg know if you need to be added to the email list.

Summer Picnics

Because of social distancing and concerns for our members safety, picnics will not be held until further restrictions are lifted. Stay tuned. We want to see you!!!



Liana Murphy is still making masks upon request, so if you are interested, contact her.

In another endeavor she is also working with a group of friends on the project below. Spread the word.



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.



Office Phone: 215-855-4676 Church Office: : 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 June Important Dates

Happy Flag Day Happy Father's Day





See Important Details Inside