



Parish News

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

Worship Schedule for March and EASTER

March 7 Third Sunday in Lent 9:15 Communion Service
March 14 Fourth Sunday in Lent 9:15 Worship Service
Pastor Joe Varsanyi
March 21 Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:15 Worship Service
Pastor Joe Varsanyi
March 28 Palm/Passion Sunday **TWO** services
8 am and 10:30 am Communion Services

HOLY WEEK:

April 1 @ 7:30 pm **Maundy Thursday Service**
with Communion and Stripping the Altar
April 2 @ 7:30 pm **Good Friday Service**
April 4 **EASTER Sunday TWO** services
8am and 10:30 am Communion Services

A Letter from the Pastor

Dear Grace Family,
Vaccines in sight, and some among us
have begun to be able to be vaccinated!
Thanks be to God!

Yet with the first anniversary of the
lockdown now so clearly in view, I often
find myself wondering:

How do we keep doing this?
How can we endure so much waiting?

I invite you to find a way to observe Lent as a way to
structure your time, even your personal space, to make these
40 days a time apart. Your Grace family offers you some

Cont.

March 2021

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resources.

Our theme for this Lent will be *The Spiritual Gifts of Waiting*.

Kevin and I will post a weekly *Prayer Pause* on Wednesdays each week of Lent. We'll post on both the church's and the school's Facebook pages, on the church website, and have print copies of the set of postings available at church and in the packets going out to homebound members and others quarantining right now. Each *Prayer Pause* will be simple: a photo; a scripture verse; a few thoughts in meditation; a verse of a hymn.

You may use the *Prayer Pause* materials in any way that works for you. These suggestions may be helpful:

Choose a prayer partner for the set to combat somebody's loneliness – your own or someone else's. (It's also fine to use the material by yourself, or with members of your own household.)

Set aside a place in your home where you are free from distractions. Use that place for the weekly *Prayer Pause* materials on Wednesdays. Or check in with your place often to sit quietly, offer a prayer – it can be as simple as "Thank you, God, for this day" or a praying of the Lord's prayer. Some people find simple deep breaths, a kind of cleansing prayer, easier or better than trying to find the right words. Others need to move when they pray, like going for a walk or a run. Find what works best for you.

Set aside a time for prayer, meditation or reflection

Choose a special offering for the season of Lent, whether it is a gift of your time, your resources, or work on a specific task. Grace gathers offerings for Rice Bowl in Lent (hunger offerings; see page 12 in this *Parish News*). Grace supports two feeding ministries (pb & j sandwiches on Tuesdays; support for EEC's food cupboard, ongoing). Lenten midweek offerings have typically supported the Hatfield Pastors' Fund for people in our community with emergency needs.

Connect with someone who would strengthen your spirit.

Be encouraged!

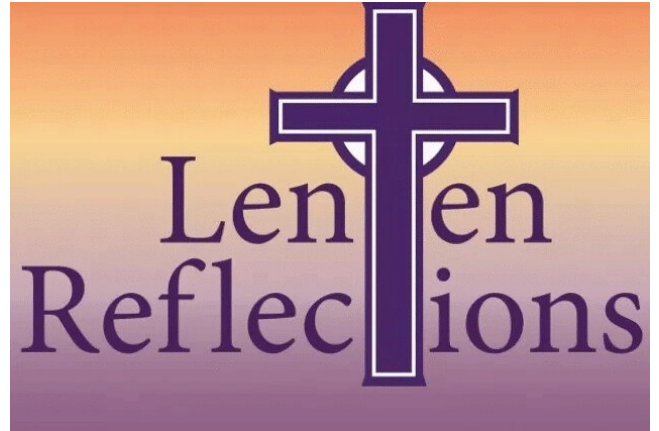
Even the ashes we wear are in the sign of the cross: Everything we do as Christians reminds us God takes the most difficult circumstances of our

Cont.

lives, blesses them, redeems them. A holy and blessed Lent to you and your loved ones.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Janet S. Peterman
Interim Pastor



Minister of Music

Hi folks... feeling like the only consistent thing lately is the cold weather? Does your shopping list include hot cocoa?

Boots and gloves and a snow shovel and scraper ready for use? I could go on... but my guess is that we all may have many of those in common this first part of the chilly new year.

We are going to transition to the season of Lent which doesn't require any shovels or gloves. During Lent we see changes in our worship prayers and music. We won't hear, speak or sing any Alleluias until Easter.

I'd like you to think of years past and a memory of Lent and the transition to the celebration of Easter. I also ask for your input into what stuck out in your memory that gave you joy about that journey through Lent. Maybe it's the reflective nature of the prayers or music or the colors we see or the sense of smell from Easter flowers. Anyway, the Lenten season will in some ways open our hearts to a sense of calm, meditation, hope, joy and community, too. We gather in prayer and give to our community. At worship today (2-14-21) we heard from Jean Shaffer about our Soupathon. We are blessed with some awesome soup makers!

Choir will put be assembling music for Lent, Holy Week and Easter over the next few weeks.

Look forward to some great music... and stay warm.

Kevin

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 Mason, 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), Anne Lewis, Joyce Salter, Jim Pluda, Ken Seiler, Sr (Ken's dad), Terry Stringfellow, (friend of Dale and Mary Jane Moyer), Hazel Mascaro, Ruthann Rex (Kathy Stawasz' mom), Jeanine Marie Cabrera (Jean Shaffer's daughter), Rich Woltmann, Shirley and Bob Yoder, Peggy Long, Ashley Plawa Reiss, Kent Peterman, Robyn Gibson (Phyllis McKeefrey's stepdaughter), Judith Stangl (John's sister), Lorraine Snyder, Julie Savitz, Vickie West, Marilyn Forst, Bob Rufe (Mary Jane Moyer's brother), Terri Markowski, Loretta Seiler, Bailey Vinson (Liz Bauer's great-granddaughter), Sandy Klinger

For All Who Grieve, including: The family and friends of Bob Darde; Shannon Ryan; Marilyn Homan; Barbara Masser (Ray's wife); Samuel Barndt, cousin of Andrea Roney; TreMar; Karen Weirbach; Diane Graham Miller; George Townsend (Roney's friend); Al Godshall, William Hardnock, Rita Hamilton (Roney's friend), Margaret Ann Berman (MJ Moyer's family), Carol Capanear, Jim Markowski, Scott Ball, Joan Amundsen, Marge Walmsley (Bruce Schmidt's cousin)

For those in active duty military service: Robert McNulty, Marines, basic training; Jessica Murphy, Air Force; Matthew Smyrl, Army; Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard

For active military deployed overseas: Kyle Murphy, Air Force

Note: INreach and Pastor Peterman are working to create guidelines for our prayer lists, so we'll have ways both of adding people to them, and of taking people off of them, as appropriate. We've had the pattern in the past of adding people on and not checking back, so sometimes the person has long been healed, or has died, and we keep praying, as though nothing has happened...

For now, INreach has proposed, and Council has agreed, that when a member of Grace dies, or a loved one of someone at Grace dies and would like the family and friends to be remembered in prayer, **that we will hold them publicly in prayer for 3 months together, then their names will cycle off.**

We know that grieving takes longer than 3 months! Our Sunday prayers often mention those who are grieving, though often not by name unless there's been a recent death; we highlight those who are grieving on All Saints Sunday, among others, at our annual meeting, when we remember members who were lost in the past year, and on other special occasions. We invite you to bring all your requests to God in prayer!

*Ask, says Jesus, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for you.*

Matthew 7:7

The Hatfield Christmas Committee
PO Box 485
Hatfield, PA 19440

January, 2021

Dear Sponsors,

This certainly is and continues to be a year of challenges. The Hatfield Christmas Committee needed to restructure the entire process of helping to serve the needy of our Hatfield Community. We needed to find a different means to support these parents at Christmas for their children.

We asked for your help to create a different procedure, and your support was immediate and overwhelming. We opted to follow the guidelines of Manna on Main Street and only give gift cards, three per child, rather than actual gifts. With the Covid Pandemic it was not safe to ask our volunteers to shop in person.

With your help, we gave gift cards to 100 children in 80 families. We partnered primarily with the two local food cupboards, Emmanuel EC Church and Hatfield Church of the Brethren.

We can't thank you enough for donating to the gift card campaign and donations for personal hygiene items. In the midst of so many changes in our community, you not only met these new challenges but exceeded all expectations.

We have received a few thank you notes and the following two sum up many of the families' sentiments.

"Thank you so much for all you do each year for my family and the other families. May God Bless you always."

"Give thanks for the help during the Christmas Season. With all the darkness in the world today, we would like to thank you for shining a light in the hearts of many. Thank you, God Bless and Merry Christmas."

Later donations will be given to the food cupboards for personal hygiene items and wherever they find the need.

Thank you for your wonderful support of our Hatfield neighbors.
God Bless you all.

Mary Catherine Reilly
The Hatfield Christmas Committee



EASTER LILIES 2021



Orders for Easter Lilies are now being taken. The flowers will be used for the Easter Services. The DEADLINE for ordering is Sunday, 3/21/2021.

You may pick up your plant after the 10:30 am Easter Sunday Service. The plants will be tagged with your name and in memory or in honor of information. Regrettably, we are not able to deliver the Lilies to friends or shut-ins.

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

	Quantity	Total Cost
Lilies - \$10.00/7" pot, 4-5 blooms	_____	\$_____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

☐

Check here if you will NOT be taking your Lilly home with you.

Ordered by: _____

Phone No. _____

Make checks payable to: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



The Central Philadelphia (Korean) Church will be worshipping in the Wagner House on Sundays at 11:00 am following CDC best practices.

Tues. are Welcome Bread Sandwich Days. The coolers will be out 8am-7pm.

Scouts meet each Thursday—Lion Den at 6pm and Bear Den at 6:30pm

*Lenten Prayer Pauses: On March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31

Look for posts on Facebook, Grace's website or contact the church office for a print copy of this year's Lenten materials: *The Spiritual Gifts of Waiting*

Tue, Mar 2, 2021 7:00pm Stitchers

*Wed, Mar 3, 2021 10:00am WELCA
6:00pm Yoga

Sun, Mar 7, 2021 9:15am Worship/Communion

10:30am Sunday School (Zoom)

Tue, Mar 9, 2021 7:00pm Property Team Meeting
7:00pm Worship and Music (Zoom)

*Wed Mar 10, 2021 6:00pm Yoga
7:00pm Stepping Stones (Zoom)

Sun, Mar 14 2021 9:15am Worship/Pastor Joe Varsanyi

10:30am Sunday School (Zoom)

Tue, Mar 16, 2021 7:00pm Council in person with Zoom option

*Wed Mar 17, 2021 6:00pm Yoga—Happy St. Patrick's Day

Sun, Mar 21, 2021 9:15am Worship/Children's message Pastor Joe Varsanyi

Parish News Articles Due

10:30am Sunday School (Zoom)

*Wed Mar 24, 2021 6:00pm Yoga

Sun Mar 28, 2021 8:00am Worship/Communion

10:30am Worship/Communion

Tue Mar 30, 2021 Parish News Mailing

*Wed Mar 31, 2021 6:00pm Yoga

Above are the events we are aware of at the time of the Parish News printing, events may be added or updated depending on the COVID-19 situation.

Date	Ushers/ Acolyte/carry basket when there is com- munion	Lector	Communion Assistant	Service Leader	Video Recorder
3/7/2021	Kaler Family	Richard Badman	Jaime Snyder	Pastor Peterman	TBD
3/14/2021	Peggy Schmidt & Kay Stone	Richard Badman	NA	Pastor Joe Varsanyi	TBD
3/21/2021	Jeff Krout & Don Capanear	Beth Krout	NA	Pastor Joe Varsanyi	TBD
3/28/2021 8am Palm Sunday	Ken Seiler & Bob Smyrl	Karen Seiler	Karen Seiler	Pastor Peterman	NA
3/28/2021 10:30am	Kay Stone & Kathy Stawasz	Frank Stone	Frank Stone	Pastor Peterman	TBD

Council Senders for March: Larua Kratz & Jeff Krout

We must always change, renew, rejuvenate ourselves; otherwise, we harden

Trouble is only opportunity in work clothes.

WELCA

Hi ladies, I can't believe we are up to March. This year is just buzzing along. At this meeting we will be filling out Easter cards for our Homebound members, these cards will be delivered by INreach. Members please bring Easter cards with you, we have about 25 Homebound members. Bring a lunch and wear a mask. Hope to see you March 3rd. Barbara Watts

Sunday Church School

Sunday school has been meeting virtually on Sundays 10:30am - 11:30am since the FALL. We have been having a good time learning about the parables Jesus told to help us understand how God wants us to treat other people WITH LOVE. We will NOT meet on Palm/Passion Sunday or Easter. If you know someone who would like to join in the fun, please have them contact

Laura Slugg

Bear Creek Campers and Counselors!

Registration for summer 2021 at BCC is open!

I have a feeling that sessions will fill up quickly so register ASAP. Visit Grace's FaceBook page or the BCC website to read about COVID19 modifications to the program <https://www.bearcreekcamp.org/summer-camp>. Please talk to Grace's BCC Ambassador, Laura Slugg 215 429 0005 or mcslugg@mac.com with any questions or to access financial aid.



College Aged young people looking for a rewarding summer experience can apply to be a counselor! More info online at <https://www.bearcreekcamp.org/employment-opportunities>

Stepping Stones Update

Time flies when you're having fun and we've been having a LOT of fun! Stepping Stones is growing with more and more children every week bringing us such wonderful families and relationships and we couldn't be happier! Our fundraiser is finishing up on February 28th and we are also preparing for St. Patrick's Day. Stepping Stones is also working towards putting in a garden for the children and will soon be looking for volunteers to assist with the project. Please keep your eyes open for how you can help! We look forward to Spring coming and the chance to get back to some sense of normal!

Jess Moran, Director

**Food Ministries: Sources of Food
Food Cupboard Distribution**

Emmanuel EEC food cupboard (100 S Main Street)

Open: Tuesday afternoons 1:00-2:00 pm: Mar 2, 16, & 30

Tuesday evenings 5:30-6:30 pm: Mar 9 & 23

Hatfield Church of the Brethren (1333 Cowpath): Is currently opened by appointment only. Contact Pastor Clay at Hatfieldfoodbank@yahoo.com to make an appointment.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church (69 W Broad St, Souderton) has a daily meal program. 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.

Open: 6 days a week, Mon – Sat, 10:30 am – 1:00 pm



Laurel House Thank YOU

The Giving in Service Team would like to thank the congregation for supporting our Laurel House project. Through your generosity, gift cards were purchased which will allow the women living at Laurel House to purchase items for their families. A special thank you to Sue Wieland for making the infinity scarves for the women of Laurel House.

YOGA (Hatha) Continues. Class will continue on Wednesdays, from **6-7 pm**. All-levels. Poses and sequences will work on using all parts of the body, and will vary from week to week. The goal is to work on strength and flexibility gradually while gaining an ability to focus on breath and awareness. **MASKS must be worn.** We will assess the COVID situation each month. If anything changes and we need stop you will be notified.

COST: \$5/class fee will be donated to Bread (formerly Welcome Bread; make checks payable to: Grace Lutheran Church)

What is needed: exercise mat (let me know if you need one) Invite a friend or family member everyone is welcome. Questions Contact Kathy Stawasz.

EEC Food Cupboard UPDATES... The items that are currently in the most need: Gift cards; canned vegetables: asparagus, carrots, peas, spinach, lima beans, mixed vegetables, whole tomatoes; tuna in oil; vinegar – pint or quart; applesauce – large cans or jars (29-30 oz.); pasta, boxed – any shape or size except spaghetti; paper towels; toilet paper – individually wrapped; shampoo; body wash.

The food cupboard is available to all Hatfield borough residents, so please reach out if you, or someone you know, would benefit from receiving supplemental food pantry items. 215-855-2540; foodcupboard@yahoo.com.

Volunteers are ALWAYS welcome!



Ayla Grace is baptized
Pictured above with her
parents, Ashley & Zach

A whole village will help Chase understand life and Christian faith. With him above around the font are his parents, Jesus and Crystal, his brothers Jayson (in the sharp-looking hat!) and Cristiano (with the really cool haircut!), his two godmothers, Patricia (who is his great grandmother, directly behind him) and Lindsey to her left, Pastor Peterman, and his congregational sponsors, Matt and Laura, who lead Grace's Sunday School, with their teens, Micah and Wyeth. **Congratulations, Chase!**



**Rice Bowl Project Continues
through Palm Sunday, March 28th**

What is the Rice Bowl? During each Sunday in Lent a special offering is observed for the Rice Bowl. These gifts provide food for many in our neighborhood as well as around the world. **In your offering envelope box, special envelopes are provided for each of the six Sundays in Lent.**

Our gifts will be shared with three organizations. The first is the **Hatfield Food Cupboard** at Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church which provides food to those in need in the Hatfield area. The second organization is **Manna on Main Street** in Lansdale which provides food and hot meals for those in the Lansdale area. Finally, we will share a portion of our gifts with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America **World Hunger Project**.

It is our hope that you will consider giving your extra gifts by simplifying your life in some way or by making an intentional effort to put others before your needs and wants. The **Rice Bowl** allows small gifts to come together to make a big difference in the lives of those in need. The *Giving in Service Team* encourages you to share part of your grocery budget by serving one simple meal a week and give that savings to the **Rice Bowl**.

**PB & J Sandwiches still continuing
Instructions (Tuesdays are drop-off days: 8am-7pm)**

- You make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on soft *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.
- The cooler will be at the entrance to Grace all day each TUESDAY. Leave your donation in the labeled coolers between 8:00 am and 7:00 pm
- Please email, text or call Jelly Czar Lou to let him know how many sandwiches you made.

More Thank You's from Christmas Time!

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, WELCA, INreach, carolers, and communion ladies, and Grace church member:

Cookies were enjoyed by all. Butterfly sun catcher is up and catching sun every day. A big thank you to Joyce for a nice communion and to Kay for the WELCA gifts. Carolers/choir, I so miss singing carols along with you, it made my day extra special. I hung all your beautiful Christmas cards on my door and enjoyed seeing them every day. You all made my Christmas bright, special, and merry.

Love in Christ Jesus,

Suzanne Colville

I would like to thank you for the cookies, cards, and candy. It was very heart warming. Please stay safe.

Nancy Sellers

Grace Family,

Thank you so much for thinking of me this holiday season!!

Rebecca White (SS)

Dear Grace Family,

Thank you so much for your generosity and for thinking of me this holiday season. I feel so blessed to work with you all.

Miss Jessica

(Stepping Stones)

Special Prayers on March 7th in worship as we mark the first anniversary of virus restrictions: In worship on March 7th, we'll take time to create special prayers of petition and blessing among those present. Their prayers will then hang on ribbons for the remainder of Lent as we remember God's presence with us in these days of difficulty and of hope.

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.



Grace and peace from Jesus Christ, the redeemer of the world.

I am Pastor Karl Richard, Secretary of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

I was horrified by the events that took place in Washington DC on January 6th when armed rioters stormed the capitol building in an attempt to overturn the election. It made me ask, “Is this who we are as a nation? As a society?”

What I have had to acknowledge, to my despair, is that the answer is “Yes, this is who we are.” It is not all of who we are. It is not the best of who we are. But it is decidedly too large a part of who we are as a nation, as a society.

We cannot say “this is not us.” One of those arrested is a firefighter from Southeastern Pennsylvania. Another, who is alleged to have planned to sell the computer of the Speaker of the House to Russian operatives, has been arraigned in Harrisburg.

It was on the Feast of the Epiphany – the day we celebrate the revelation of the Light of God’s love for all people through Jesus Christ – that this band of rioters stormed the Capitol. Many bore symbols of the Confederacy, which are symbols of hate to our siblings of color. Others wore clothes which showed support of Nazi death camps and Jewish extermination.

They were led by white nationalists and white supremacists, who brought a violent insurrection against the sitting, elected government of the United States.

We are far from the dream the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. envisioned, where “the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.”

They did not prevail. On January 20th we witnessed the inauguration of a new president.

But for us to live in peace with one another there needs to be more

Cont.

than a transition from one leader to another. There needs to be acknowledgment of wrongs that have been done. There needs to be accountability. There needs to be repentance before there can be reconciliation.

We as a nation “hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.” This is an essential part of our national creed. Another part of this creed is the provision that all people be afforded “equal justice under the law.”

We as a nation need to acknowledge that we do not recognize all people as equal. We do not allow all people equal access to society, or equal protection under the law. And we as Christians, particularly we Christians who are white, need to recognize that this is not just a violation of our national creed, but of our call and faith as people of God in Christ.

As the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America we have declared that white supremacy is racism and we condemn it; the love of God is for all people, without exception, and we proclaim it.

Jesus did not kill those who disagreed with him. He died for them. He did not come to save only those who were like him. He came to offer salvation to all. As we read in John 3:16, “God so loved the WORLD that he gave his only begotten Son...”

As we move into this new administration, let us be people who affirm the truth of both our Christian Creed that God loves the world, and our national creed that all people are created equal. Let us pray for peace, and let us *act* for peace. Let us stand for and with the oppressed. Let us root out the oppressor within us, and stand against those who would oppress others. Let us acknowledge our wrongs and repent of them, so that true reconciliation can happen. Let us follow the Spirit of Christ to embody the dream of Dr. King. Let us, with God’s help, become the Beloved Community God intends us to be. And may *this* be who we are as a nation, and as a society.





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Jessica Moran, Director
steppingstonesoffice@verizon.net

March 2021

Mar 14 Daylight Savings Time
Mar 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day
Mar 28 Palm/Passion Sunday



See Important Details Inside

Grace Lutheran Church
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