



# Parish News

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

## From Pastor Raabe

### The Miracle of Christmas: Always Being Made New

Have you ever thought about how Christmas never gets old? “Oh, *that* holiday. Already? Again?” I don’t think anyone ever says that, do you?

That first day when we give ourselves permission to start listening to Christmas music (carols, not secular tunes) is magical, or at least it has always been for me. In music’s marvelous capacity to take us where language alone cannot, it transports us out of our busy, frantic, fearful world into the timeless truth of God from Alpha to Omega. The catchwords of Christmas become real. They well up from within us and cascade into our thoughts, our prayers, our words, our actions: Peace. Hope. Comfort. Joy. And of course, Love.



Why does Christmas feel new every year? Because we are not only remembering something that happened long ago which is receding into the past. We are stepping once again into the deep and unfathomable mystery of the entry into our fleshly realm of God’s only-begotten Son, a gift that we receive each year with open arms as a fresh sign of God’s grace.

In our Christmas Eve communion liturgy we will hear these words:

Cont.

## December 2021

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*On the feast of this awe-filled mystery,  
though invisible in his own divine nature he has appeared visibly in ours;  
and begotten before all ages, he has begun to exist in time,  
so that, raising up in himself all that was cast down,  
he might restore unity to all creation,  
and call straying humanity back to the heavenly kingdom.*

How can it be that God loves us this enormously, this vastly? How could God have been willing, *for us*, to send his only Son into this world in flesh and blood so that through him we might come to know God's own heart? How can God have been willing *for us* to have him suffer and die and be raised so that we may live every day in the confidence that we too will be raised into new life? There's no need for an answer. Or if there was, it would simply be: "I AM."

Because our world is different each year and we are different people in it, this gift of grace is always being made new. The collect for Christmas in the Lutheran Church Book of 1868, published in Philadelphia for the German Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania, phrases it with poetical perfection: "Grant, we beseech thee, Almighty God, that the *new* birth of thine only-begotten Son in the flesh may set us free who are held in the *old* bondage under the yoke of sin..." (emphasis added).

This is the incomparable miracle of the Christian faith--that even though we cannot see God's divine nature, God has chosen to appear to us in human form so that we might know him as one just like us in every way but without sin. This is how much God loves us: Enough to send his Son into the world where hate would be a contender but never the victor. Enough to send his Son into the world as one who cared as we do, who loved as we do, who yearned, and wept, and suffered just as we do. Enough to send his Son into a world where his own people would betray him and then condemn him so that he, like us, would die. Enough to then transform Christ's death, as God will transform ours, into a victory of everlasting life. Life forever through God for us--Emmanuel.

Have you started listening to those carols yet? Let's sing them together in church. Come and worship. Worship Christ, the newborn king!

### From our Minister of Music

The US post office is busiest around this time of year. Packages and cards adding to the schedule of our mail carriers. I think its a wonder how something as small as a post card survives its travels to our mail boxes amidst so many other items. Many holiday cards have taken the form of a postcard and they end up perhaps on the fridge, the mantel or Christmas tree.

In my music travels I came across a creative holiday postcard composer. His name is Alfred Burt. He was an American Jazz musician who is famous for his holiday cards, a total of fifteen written between 1942 and 1954. Burt attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and served as an officer in the United States Army during World War II. After the war, he played trumpet in the Alvino Rey Orchestra.

His holiday cards were sent to friends and family over several years but each one had a newly composed Christmas Carol on it. They eventually developed into a collection of carols that are heard at various holiday venues.

This year I'm delighted to include some of these carols at worship and it may, in fact, be the first time you've heard them.

One of my favorites is called Caroling, Caroling. It's literally one of the most delightful holiday tunes ever and you may know that one! It was made famous by the singer, Nat King Cole.

Many good things to come. Stay tuned and be merry.  
Good cheer to all!

*Kevin*



### Return to Two Services

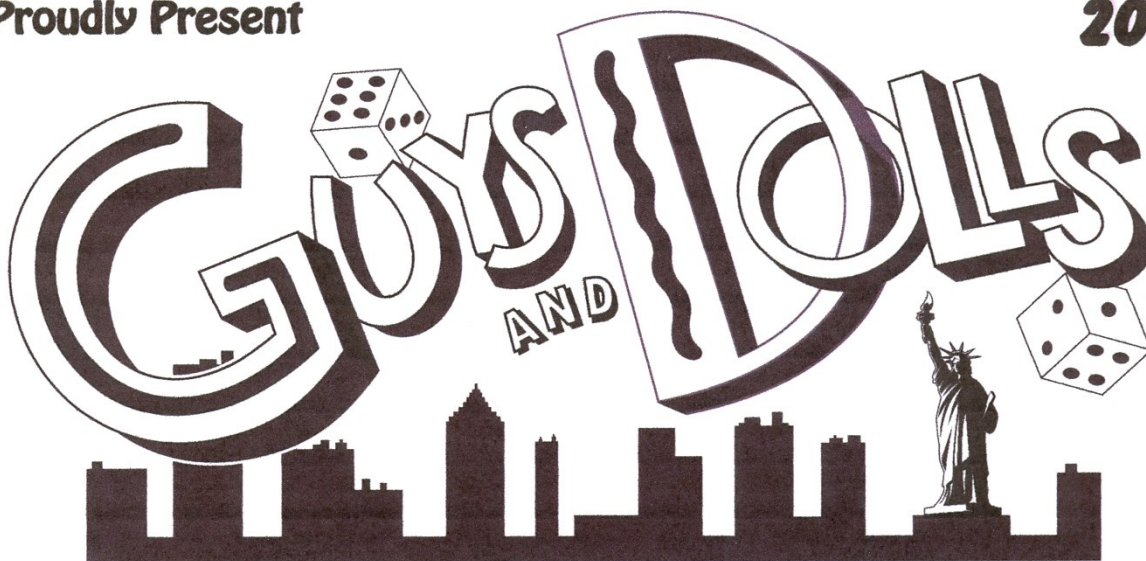
On December 5 we return to our former worship schedule of Sunday morning services at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School and adult Christian education at 9:15 a.m. Starting in December we will celebrate Holy Communion on the first and third Sundays of each month. Face masks continue to be required in worship and in the building whenever Stepping Stones is in session, and are strongly recommended throughout the building at all times.

Celebrating our 34<sup>th</sup> Production

# The Laymen Playmen, Inc.

Proudly Present

2022



Friday Feb. 11 7:30 PM

Saturday Feb. 12 2:00 PM

& 7:30 PM

Sunday Feb. 13 2:00 PM

Friday Feb. 18 7:30 PM

Saturday Feb. 19 2:00 PM

& 7:30 PM

Sunday Feb. 20 2:00 PM

501.c3



## TICKETS

Adults \$15.00

Seniors (65+) \$10.00

Students (6 to 18) \$10.00

Children (5 & under) \$5.00

Group discounts &  
Gift Certificates available

[www.laymenplaymen.org](http://www.laymenplaymen.org)

215 - 368 - 9484

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

GUYS AND DOLLS

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.mtishows.com](http://www.mtishows.com)

## December Calendar

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The Central Philadelphia (Korean) Church will be worshipping on Sundays at noon in the Sanctuary.

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

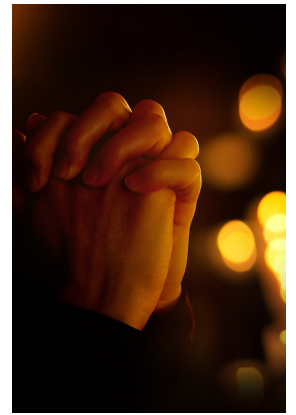
Wed, Dec 1, 2021	10:00am	WELCA
	1:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
	6:00pm	Lion Den Meeting
	6:15pm	Yoga
Fri Dec 3, 2021	7:00pm	Cub Pack 510 Meeting
Sat Dec 4, 2021	2:00pm	Hatfield Community Christmas / Pet Pictures
	5:00pm	Community Christmas / Games and Food
<b>Sun Dec 5 2021</b>	8:00am	Worship Service / Communion
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30 am	Worship Service / Communion / Baptism
Tue Dec 7, 2021	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed Dec 8, 2021	6:15pm	Yoga
	7:30pm	Communication Team (Zoom)
<b>Sun Dec 12, 2021</b>	8:00am	Worship Service—Parish News articles due
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship Service
	11:30am	Congregational Budget Meeting
Mon Dec 13, 2021	7:30pm	Christian Connections (as needed)
Tue Dec 14, 2021	7:00pm	Property Team
	7:00pm	Worship and Music Team
Wed Dec 15, 2021	1:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
	6:00pm	Lion Den Meeting
	6:15pm	Yoga
	7:00pm	Packing Sweets for Sharing
Thu., Dec 16, 2021	6:00pm	Blue Christmas
<b>Sun, Dec 19, 2021</b>	8:00am	Worship Service (no communion)
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship Service (no communion)
Mon Dec 20, 2021	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Meeting
Tue Dec 21, 2021	10:00am	Parish News Compiled
	7:00pm	Council Meeting (Zoom option)
Wed Dec 22, 2021	7:30pm	HEART Team
Fri Dec 24 2021	4:00pm	Christmas Eve Communion / Candlelighting
	6:30pm	Christmas Eve Communion / Candlelighting
	9:00pm	Christmas Eve Communion / Candlelighting

**Sun, Dec 26, 2021 9:15am Worship/Communion**  
 NO Sunday School  
**Tue, Dec 28, 2021 7:00pm INreach Team**

**Prayers:**

**Please let Pastor Raabe know if you would like someone added to this list, or if someone you have added is no longer in need of urgent prayers.**

***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, Ron and Karen Hudson, Lisa Kane, Joyce Salter, Terry Stringfellow, (friend of Dale and Mary Jane Moyer), Hazel Mascaro, Jerry Mascaro, Rich Woltmann, Peggy Long, Lorraine Snyder, Vickie West, Marilyn Forst, Bob Rufe (Mary Jane Moyer's brother), Bailey Vinson (Liz Bauer's great-granddaughter), Sandy Klinger, Chuck & Linda Arkins (H3C friends), Margaret Stangl (John Stangl's mother), Dave Kunkel, Sue & Faith Rowbottom, Joy, Gary & Nicky Torgeson, Janet Williams (Carol MacDonald's mother), the Scarola family (dear friends of Peggy & Bruce Schmidt), Helen Godshall, Debbie Hendricks (cousin of Mary Jane Moyer), Debbie Zuech-Smyrl, Ralph Schultz (Karen Seiler's father), Madiafe Sheriff, John Stangl, Christy Skogan (friend of Beth Krout), George Adams (Lincoln Kaler's football coach), Rhonda Wagner Berger (granddaughter of the Wagner property original owners), Emily Detweiler (daughter of Beth Krout's co-worker), Dean Capanear



***For all who grieve, including the family and friends of:*** Andrew Sobolusky (neighbor of Liz & Tom), Gail Walter, Jeanne Scarola

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

***For active military deployed overseas:*** Kyle Murphy, Air Force



## ***2021 Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project***

For members of Grace, the Advent season is one of anticipation of God's gift we receive at Christmas – the gift of Jesus. Each year we look forward to and prepare for the celebration of his birth. However, for some families in our community, it is a time of worry about providing daily needs.

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. This year we will be sharing our gifts with four families from Stepping Stones.

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. We encourage you to shop as you do now – online or in stores. You may also choose to do gift cards.

Angel gifts will be collected for the Hatfield Christmas Committee for area families as well as our four families. A list of items is included below and will also be available near the display in the narthex. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps and are personal items needed by families that are serviced by our area food cupboards. Your items may be brought to church anytime. We are also collecting warm socks for our friends at Bread Drop. These socks should be inexpensive, warm crew or knee socks.

**All gifts for the Adopt-a-Family, Bread Drop Socks and the Angel Gifts are due by Sunday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.**

What a wonderful way to begin the Advent Season by giving to one of our families.

*The Giving in Service Team* – Jean Shaffer, Diane Ball, Carol MacDonald, Barb Watts, Kay Deussing, Mary Jane Moyer, and Kay Stone

Items for Angel Boxes:

Paper Towels  
Bathroom Tissue  
Kleenex (tissues)  
Bar Soap

Toothpaste/toothbrushes  
Shampoo (be sure lids are closed tightly)  
Deodorant  
Razors  
Feminine Products

## Page 8 December Serving Schedule

December	5	12	19	26
<b>8am</b>				
Altar Guild	Wendy Walter	n/a	n/a	<b>One Service At 9:15am— see below</b>
Communion Assistant	Bruce Schmidt	n/a	n/a	
Lector	Bruce Schmidt	Walter Family	Karen Seiler	
Acolyte	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	
Ushers	Peggy Schmidt/ Don Capanear	Walter Family	Ken & Karen Seiler	
<b>10:30am</b>				
Altar Guild	Kay Stone / Tami Sarm	n/a	n/a	n/a
Communion Assistant	Jaime Snyder	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lector	Richard Badman	Jayson Tula	The Slugg Family	TBD
Acolyte	Elijah Krout	Cristiano Tula	Usher	TBD
Ushers	Kathy Stawasz / Jeff Krout	Carol Mac-Donald/TBD	Kay Stone / Kay Deussing	TBD
Video Recorder	Harold Schaefer/ Dan & Tami Sarm	Harold Schaefer/ Dan & Tami Sarm	Harold Schaefer/ Dan & Tami Sarm	TBD
<b>Dec 24</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>	<b>9:00pm</b>	
Ushers	Jeff Krout & Ken Seiler	Kathy Stawasz & TBD	Peggy & Bruce Schmidt	
All other servers	TBD	TBD	TBD	

**Council Sender:** Joanne Moyer / Bob Smyrl

**YOGA (Hatha) CLASS back by popular demand.**

Classes will be at 6:15pm.—7:15pm. We will have yoga in the parking lot-weather permitting. If bad weather we will be inside. 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.

**WHEN:** Every Wednesday thru 12/15/21 at 6:15pm

**WHERE:** Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 40 N. Main Street, Hatfield, PA  
(outside - in the parking lot - if weather permits)

**MASK must be worn (at this time) if inside**

**COST:** \$5/class (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. Questions Contact Kathy Stawasz .

**Stepping Stones Update**

Here at Stepping Stones we are just so thankful for so many things! We are thankful that this year we are able to bring back our Thanksgiving Feast which we haven't gotten to do since before the pandemic and while we may not be able to gather like we did before, it sure will be nice to work together to make some great food! Stepping Stones will be closed on November 25th and 26th for the Thanksgiving holiday but we will re-open on Monday, November 29. Keep your eyes on our Facebook page and our Instagram for our daily happenings; we are always busy!

Jess Moran

**Laymen Playmen Request**

“What’s Playin’ at the Roxy? I’ll tell you what’s playin’ at the Roxy...”

“Follow the Fold” with Laymen Playmen to our 34<sup>th</sup> production, **GUYS and DOLLS**.

The Costume Mistresses need your help. We are looking for men’s suits and hats. If you would like to donate them, please let MC Reilly know or bring them to the Narthex.

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

***Emmanuel EEC food cupboard*** (100 S Main Street)

Open: Tuesday afternoons 1:00-2:00 pm: Dec 14 & 28

Tuesday evenings 5:30-6:30 pm: Dec 7 & 21

***Hatfield Church of the Brethren*** (1333 Cowpath): Is currently opened by appointment only. Contact Pastor Clay at [Hatfieldfoodbank@yahoo.com](mailto: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

**Coat Drive 2021- Update**

Our number of coats has now increased to 90. This is outstanding. There will always be needs for coats so the food cupboards will continue to accept additional new coats. Thank you all so very much for your generous contributions to the Annual Coat Drive. We initially gathered 75 coats here at Grace and there are additional coats still coming in.

We are so proud of your response to the needs in the Hatfield Community.

Thank you for helping to keep our children safe and warm from the cold.

God Bless you all.

H3C

**2022 Altar flower sponsors needed.** Sign up sheets are available in the narthex. Questions contact Kathy Stasz at 225-760-6297.

**Don't forget to pick up your 2022 envelopes**



With strong COVID protocols in place (masks are mandatory and clients are spaced safely apart), clients are once again coming into the building to shop. While the food cupboard is continuing to experience a high volume of clients, it is so nice that those clients are able to select their own items.

Thank you for all of your generous donations that are continuously filling up our Grace food cupboard bins. Those donations don't stay long on the shelves once they are brought to the EEC as there are many people in our community that have food insecurity. Please know that your donations are a HUGE blessing to so many!

For the latest needs see Grace Notes

### **Upcoming distribution dates & times:**

Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm: Dec 7 & 21

Tuesdays 1 – 2 pm: Dec 14 & 28

**Volunteers are still NEEDED!** There is so much that needs to be done, but, please know that if you can spare an hour or two each month to help out, social distancing measures and strong COVID protocols are in place for everyone's protection.

- All volunteers wear masks, use hand sanitizer regularly, and wipe down surfaces with disinfectant
- Volunteers can choose to do any of the following: help clients shop, weigh items, bring groceries to client's cars, or just stock the shelves.

The food cupboard is open to all Hatfield borough residents, so please reach out if you, or someone you know, would benefit from receiving supplemental food pantry items. Messages for Janet Hague can be left at 215-855-2540;

[foodcupboard@yahoo.com](mailto:foodcupboard@yahoo.com). You can also call/email Carol MacDonald for more information.

**REQUEST FROM PROPERTY TEAM TO ALL GRACE MEMBERS:** If you are aware of something that needs to be repaired, replaced, or trashed, please advise a member of the Property Team. The team members are Frank Stone Sr., Bruce Schmidt, Jeff Krout and Bob Reilly

**Advent and Christmas: Make your home here with us at Grace!**

- Sunday, November 28, Advent 1, 9:15 a.m.: "Cosmic Upheaval."
- Sunday, December 5, Advent 2, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.: "Prepare" (with communion).
- Sunday, December 12, Advent 3, 8 a.m. and 10:30 am: "God in Our Midst."
- Thursday, December 16 at 6 p.m.: "Blue Christmas" (for those living with loss).
- Sunday, December 19, Advent 4: 8 a.m., traditional worship; 10:30 a.m., Lessons and Carols (no communion, as Pastor Raabe is away)
- Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve, 4 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.: "Night of Silence," carols by candlelight with holy communion
- Sunday, December 26: 1st Sunday of Christmas, traditional worship, one service at 9:15 a.m. (no communion).

**Thrivent/Habitat Faith Build**

We are delighted that Grace has signed on as a fundraising partner in the Thrivent Faith Build project at 2714 Cowpath Road! Led by Jaime Snyder and Pastor Raabe, our team is comprised primarily of our youth. We have several ideas for fundraising initiatives you'll be hearing more about in the coming weeks:

Sunday, November 28, at 9:15 a.m.: Faith Build Sunday at Grace, fundraising kickoff with Thrivent and Habitat staff in worship, a special offering, a blessings of 2 x 4s to be used in the construction, and a coffee hour hosted by Thrivent

Thursday, January 13, 2022 from 5-7 p.m.: Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner  
Sunday, March 6, 2022: Spring Birdhouse Silent Auction, 9 a.m.-12 noon

See our Facebook page or find the Faith Build page in the Community area of our web site to directly support the Grace team, or go here:

<https://bit.ly/3oAq6e6>

**Reiki**

On November 14 during our healing service we introduced Reiki (a form of hands on healing) with Lou and Cathy Farrell, which was very well received. The Farrells are available anytime after church to stay for a few minutes of Reiki for anyone who desires this, or to answer any questions you might have. Thank you, Cathy and Lou!

**“Blue Christmas”: Thursday, December 16 at 6 p.m.**

Because not everyone is up for “a holly jolly Christmas,” a meaningful act of pastoral care during the season of Advent is to include a worship service known as “Blue Christmas,” sometimes called “The Longest Night.”

Typically taking place around the winter solstice, such services address the need for reflection and contemplation for those in pain. Some may be grieving the death of a loved one, others are coping with divorce, separation, or job loss, and still others living with cancer or another disease that turns the world upside down and calls the future into question. The church must be attentive to these needs of all people for healing and hope.

This year Grace will offer “Blue Christmas” at **6 p.m. on Thursday, December 16**, when the night lingers for 14 hours and 10 minutes until sunrise. Accompanied by organ, piano and guitar, we will sing hymns and carols that invite us to find rest and strength in God and lift up our longing for a Savior; hear scripture readings that offer welcome for the excluded, peace for the weary and confidence in God’s promises; inscribe paper stars with concerns for ourselves and others that we may then hang on the tree; and light candles during a litany of remembrance before concluding with Silent Night.

If you cannot join us in person, please look for the livestream link on our Facebook page or the Worship page of our website, [gracelutheranhatfield.org](http://gracelutheranhatfield.org). We hope very much that you will join us for this special worship experience.



**WELCA**

> Ladies it's hard to believe that December is just around the corner and our very last meeting for 2021. Our meeting is December 1st. First we will have a short time with the Word. We will be doing Christmas cards for the Homebound members including a small gift to be delivered with cookies from Inreach. Then we'll go to Ralph's Corner Diner for a Dutch Treat lunch. January 5th 2022 will be the first meeting of the new year weather permitting. I Hope all of you have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Years, stay safe and healthy , Barb



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2021



Poinsettias will be available for decoration of our Chancel. Orders are now being taken. The DEADLINE for ordering is Sunday, 12/5/21.

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

4-6 Blooms

Pot Size 6"

Qty. \_\_\_\_\_

Cost - \$12.25

2 Branched Poinsettia

8-12 Blooms

Pot Size 7"

Red & White Combination

Qty. \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Ordered by: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ☒ Check here if you do not want your flowers.



Make checks payable to: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



**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 15th by 6:30 pm. Then join the InReach Team in packing them up at 7 pm. It is lots of fun! For more information contact Peggy Schmidt at 215-687-6511.



If you are in need of pastoral care or are looking for a helping hand for any reason, please contact Pastor Raabe by email; in the office (M-Th 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.) or 215.855.4676; or on her cell phone 614.214.2639. Talk with her about prayer requests, illnesses and hospital stays, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and joyful events in your life. She is waiting to hear from you!

**Bob and Shirley Yoder were married at Grace on December 24, 1956** and this Christmas Eve will celebrate 65 years together. Let's all wish them a happy anniversary, and many more to come!





Lynn Fasick  
Office Phone: 215-855-4676  
Church Office:  
[graceassistant40@gmail.com](mailto:graceassistant40@gmail.com)

Pastor Nancy Raabe  
[pastorgracehatfield@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgracehatfield@gmail.com)

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

Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music  
[kevinf@musician.org](mailto:kevinf@musician.org)

## December 2021

- Dec 4**      **Hatfield Community Christmas**
- Dec 12**    **Budget Meeting**
- Dec 16**    **Blue Christmas**
- Dec 24**    **3 Christmas Eve Services**



**See Important Details Inside or go to:**

**[Gracelutheranhatfield.org](http://Gracelutheranhatfield.org)**

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