



Parish News

Grace Lutheran Church

gracelutheranhatfield.org

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

**January
2022**

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From Pastor Raabe: Singing the (entire) story

I have heard it said, “No Easter, no Christmas.” What does this mean? The other way around makes more sense, doesn’t it? “No Christmas, No Easter?” After all, if Jesus had not been born, he could not have died and been raised.



Actually, “No Easter, no Christmas” is right on. We celebrate Christmas only because of the events of Easter, in which God’s love broke death’s grip on the cosmos. At the moment of Jesus’ resurrection love, not fear, was affirmed as the strongest force in creation. On Christmas we don’t just welcome a new baby who grows up to be a wise teacher. We mark the birth of the Savior of the world, the one who gave his life to redeem our own as God’s victorious expression that goodness is stronger than evil, life is stronger than death. Without this, Jesus would simply have been another prophet in the Hebrew tradition. And who celebrates the birth of Ezekiel, Jeremiah, or Isaiah?

This is why I love those carols and hymns that invite us poetically into the sweep of the entire story of who Jesus was and what of God accomplished through him. Every good hymn, another wise person once said, must tell this story in some way. Otherwise we are left at the manger wondering what all this news and noise is all about.

Richard Wilbur’s hymn “A Stable Lamp is Lighted” does this superbly. You can read the text of this hymn and also hear it on a page located under the Worship area of our website titled “Christmas Message.”

Cont.

We begin standing outside the stable at the very moment Jesus is born, when the room becomes suffused with light that spreads to the far corners of heaven as the stars bend their voices to the miraculous event. In stanza 2 we are transported to the great procession on Palm Sunday, then in stanza 3 to the foot of the cross on Good Friday. This leads us to a posture of rapt wonder in stanza 4 as we ponder the miracle of Jesus' resurrection, before cycling back to his birth at the end with "praises of the child by whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled."

The hymn writer's craft is not only to tell a story but to invite us through arresting imagery to make it our own. Wilbur, who went on to become U.S. Poet Laureate, penned this in the 1950s but it languished in relative obscurity for 30 years until composer David Hurd gave it an evocative, sweepingly lyrical musical setting that itself seems to reach to the far corners of heaven. Wilbur's great poetic inspiration was to weave the four stanzas together with the repeated refrain, "... and every stone shall cry." In Luke 19, as Jesus is riding into Jerusalem with the "whole multitude of disciples" praising God with a loud voice, the Pharisees--who are always getting in his way--order the disciples to stop their clamor. Jesus replies, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out." Even the stones--the most apparently listless of God's creations--are, under their hard shells, actually alive with wonder and rejoicing at God's great work of salvation.

Even though Christmas is now past and the songs of the season have faded from the air, the larger message of Christmas follows us through the entire year. As we move into 2022 and gear up for all the challenges it will bring, let us continue to rejoice with the whole multitude of disciples through acts of love and compassion. I look forward walking alongside you, individually and as a community of faith, as we lend our hands, voices and lives to God's great work of reconciliation.

Pastor Nancy Raabe

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.*

From our Minister of Music**Over the river and through the woods... and a Happy New Year!**

I bet it's safe to say everyone has a favorite Christmas cookie. Do you share or just go in for the taking? If a cookie were a piece of music, it might be a Carol. Do you have a favorite Carol? We don't usually sing every Carol in our hymnal (but very close). Do you know how many Christmas Carols are in our hymnal? 31! However, "Joy to the World" is listed in the Advent section. English hymn writer, Isaac Watts published the hymn's text (paraphrasing the second half of Psalm 98) in a collection he called, The Psalms of David Imitated in the Language of the New Testament, 1719. He titled the hymn, "The Messiah's coming and kingdom." The text mentions nothing of Shepherds, Angelic Choirs or Wise Men. It emphasizes instead, the reverent but ecstatic joy that Christ's birth brought to humanity. The word of hope during Advent is that we know the Lord our King will bring a final and lasting justice and joy to our world. So its words may remind you that one day Jesus will rule the world with truth and grace and make known the wonders of his great love for us. The hymn could really be appropriate at any time during the church year in reference to a theme for the "Kingdom of God" The familiar tune, "Joy to the World" is thought to have been adapted by Lowell Mason, an American church musician, taking parts from George Frederick Handel's Messiah oratorio.

There is indeed a lot of joy at Grace! We have a lot to be thankful for in 2021. In this New Year we might carry over a few extra holiday pounds and set goals perhaps for a happier and healthier year. Whatever you decide is the right thing for you, consider not thinking of a year as just 365 days, but rather 365 opportunities for "joy". Whatever that idea brings to mind, may it include the "joy" of knowing you are loved and cared for in many ways. Through prayers, smiles, handshakes, signs of peace, sharing and caring in ways that each one of us is able to do for another.

I hope you know how much I care about you, Grace and Music Ministry. My very best wishes to all of you for a blessed New Year. I hope you had your favorite cookies this holiday or at least left some for Santa on his many trips through the white and drifted snow.

Kevin

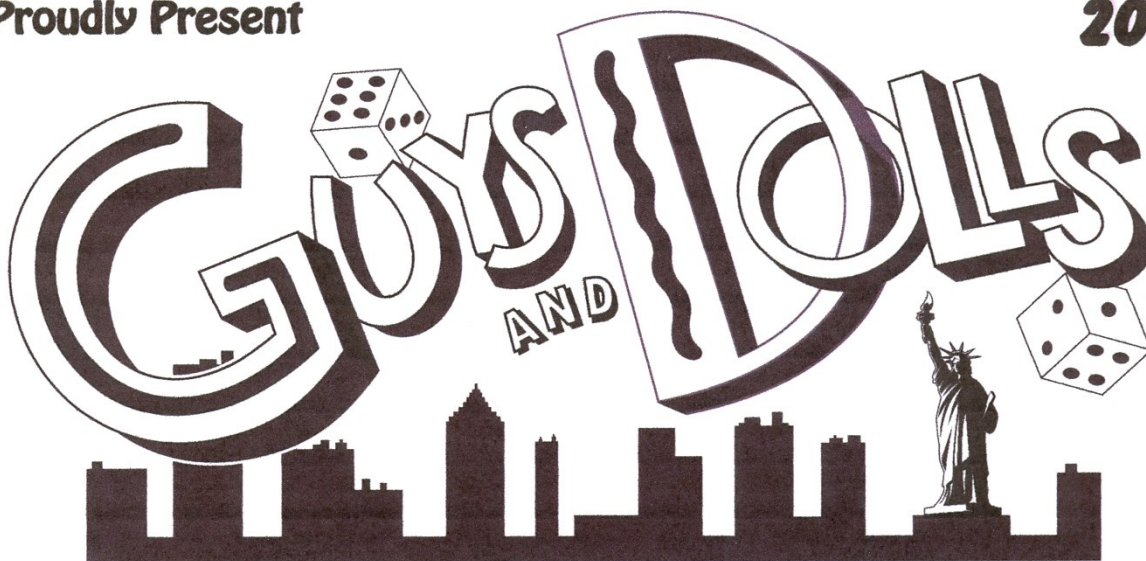


Celebrating our 34th Production

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

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

January Calendar

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

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

Sat Jan 1, 2022 Happy New Year

Sun Jan 2 2022 **8:00am** **Worship Service / Communion**
 9:15am Sunday School
 10:30 am Worship Service / Communion

Tue Jan 4, 2022 7:00pm Stitchers

Wed Jan 5, 2022 10:00am WELCA
 1:00pm Choir Practice
 6:15pm Yoga

Fri Jan 7, 2022 7:00pm Cub Pack 510 Meeting
 Annual Team Reports Due

Sun Jan 9, 2022 **8:00am** **Worship Service / Communion**
 9:15am Sunday School
 10:30am Worship Service / Communion

Mon Jan 10, 2022 7:30pm Christian Connections (as needed)

Tue Jan 11, 2022 7:00pm Property Team
 7:00pm Worship and Music Team

Wed Jan 12 2022 1:00pm Choir Rehearsal
 6:15pm Yoga
 7:30pm Communication Team Meeting (Zoom)

Thu Jan 13, 2022 4:30-6:30pm Drive through spaghetti dinner

Fri Jan 14, 2022 Parish News Articles Due

Sun, Jan 16, 2022 **8:00am** **Worship Service / Communion**
 9:15am Sunday School
 10:30am Worship Service / Communion

Tue Jan 18, 2022 7:00pm Council Meeting (Zoom option)

Wed Jan 19, 2022 6:15pm Yoga

Fri Jan 20, 2022 7:00pm Cub Pack 510 Meeting

Sat Jan 22, 2022 3-5pm Beer Tasting Fundraiser Event

Sun, Jan 23, 2022 **8:00am** **Worship Service**
 9:15am Sunday School
 10:30am Worship Service

Tue, Jan 25, 2022 Parish News Compiled

7:00pm INreach Team

Wed Jan 26 2022 1:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Cont.



	6:15pm	Yoga
	7:30pm	HEART Meeting
Fri Jan 28, 2022	6:00pm	Cub Pack 510 Meeting
Sat Jan 29, 2022	9:00am	Cub Pack 510 Pinewood Derby
Sun Jan 30, 2022	8:00am	Worship Service
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship Service
	11:30am	Annual Congregational Meeting

Welcome! We were delighted to welcome three children into our Grace family at the 10:30 a.m. service on December 5th through the sacrament of baptism: Luca John Plawa, Embrey Lynn Edgar, and Eila Marie Edgar. What a joy to have so many family members present as well to worship with us. Thanks be to God!

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 Moore, Don Cabrera, Jean Shaffer's daughter's father-in-law, Peg Malloy, Diane Miller, Betty Murray, Donna Herman (friend of the Badmans)

For all who grieve, including the family and friends of: The family of Shayna Bergey (neighbor of the Seilers)

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



A HUGE Thank you for your generous gifts to the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project

On Monday evening, Dec. 13th, a team of Grace Elves packed up the wonderful gifts we collected from our members. Not only do you shop for our families but also Cub Scout Pack 510 and Troop 51 provided gifts. The Hatfield Community also helps provide gifts for our families: Bethany Bible, Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church, RE/MAX Realty, Laboratory Testing, The Lions, Sons of the American Legion, and the Legion Auxiliary and individuals in the community. Thrivent Financial through our Thrivent Action Team also provided funding to help with our project. In addition, your items for the Angel Gifts were shared with our families and two area food cupboards. The sock bin was filled with 121 pairs of socks as well as a few hats and gloves to help homeless men and women have warm hands and feet this winter. Thank you so much for shopping and supporting our families, the food cupboards, and the people that Bread Drop serve.

The Giving in Service Team



Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner

Your Faith Build Fundraising Team is very excited about our first project: a **Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner on Thursday, January 13 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.** Grace has committed to raise \$2,500 toward the

Thrivent/Habitat for Humanity Faith Build project at 2714 Cowpath Rd. This event will go a long way toward achieving that goal. Just drive into our parking lot as directed by attendants, place your order, and it will be filled in a jiffy and brought piping hot to your car! The meal is priced at \$10 and includes a generous serving of spaghetti and meat sauce with optional sausage prepared by Chef Lou Farrell, or vegetarian if you prefer, with salad, bread, and dessert. Drive up and bring home dinner for the whole family! See Jaime Snyder if you'd like to volunteer. We can always use more helpers.

Thrivent and Habitat for Humanity are sponsoring one of four duplexes to be built at the Cowpath Rd. property. The cost for each is \$288,000; Thrivent is contributing half, and seeking support from community groups for the other half. Look for an article on this in the Lansdale Reporter on January 8th!

WELCA

January 5th 2022 will be the first meeting of the new year, weather permitting. We will be having Bible study. All you need is a mask and a bag lunch. I hope all of you had a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year, stay safe and healthy, Barb

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January	2	9	16	23	30
8am					
Altar Guild	Janice Swartz	Janice Swartz	Janice Swartz	N/A	N/A
Communion Assistant	Bruce Schmidt	TBD	TBD	N/A	N/A
Lector	Bruce Schmidt	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Acolyte	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers	Ushers
Ushers	Don Capanear/ TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Don Capanear/ TBD
10:30am					
Altar Guild	TBD	TBD	Emily Woltmann	N/A	N/A
Communion Assistant	Jaime Snyder	TBD	Jaime Snyder	N/A	N/A
Lector	Jaime Snyder	Beth Krout	The Slugg Family	Richard Badman	Jean Shaffer
Acolyte	Lennon Kaler	Elijah Krout	Lennon Kaler	Usher	Usher
Ushers	TBD	Jeff Krout / TBD	Slugg Family	Kathy Stawasz/ TBD	Bob Reilly / TBD
Video Recorder	Harold Schaefer/ Dan & Tami Sarm	Harold Schaefer/ Dan & Tami Sarm	Harold Schaefer/ Dan & Tami Sarm	Harold Schaefer/ Dan & Tami Sarm	Harold Schaefer/ Dan & Tami Sarm

Council Sender: Carol MacDonald

YOGA (Hatha) CLASS back by popular demand.

Classes will be at 6:15pm.—7:15pm from Wednesday January 5, 2022— March 30, 2022. 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 (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, if interested.

MASK must be worn (at this time) if inside



Stepping Stones Update

Merry Christmas from Stepping Stones! We're putting another year in the bag and welcoming 2022 with open arms! This calendar year promises to be a great one with the return of Summer Camp, our Read-a-thon coming up in April, and our St. Jude's Trike-a-thon as well. As the year ends and we reflect on all we have accomplished I think it's worth mentioning that our staff at Stepping Stones are absolute rock stars for everything they do each day to make sure our kids have the best learning environment possible during such a difficult and unprecedented time. Here's to 2022 and Happy New Year! Jess Moran

Annual Reports Due

As a reminder, it's time for planning the Annual Report. Please be advised that the due date for submitting information for the report will be **January 7, 2022**. Please send reports to the office at graceassistant40@gmail.com. Thank you !

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

Emmanuel EEC food cupboard (100 S Main Street)

Open: Tuesday afternoons 1:00-2:00 pm: Jan 11 & 25

Tuesday evenings 5:30-6:30 pm: Jan 4 & 18

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 Valentine's Day Project 2022

The *Giving in Service Team* invites you to support our 2022 Valentine's Day Project. Laurel House provides shelter, care and counseling for abused women and children of Montgomery County. This year you may choose from a list of items that are needed by the families or gift cards in \$25 increments. Watch for the display in mid-January.

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 the funds to shop for personal care items and other necessities for daily life.

2022 Offering Envelopes have Arrived

You will find your envelopes in the narthex at Grace. If you are unable to pick up your envelopes, please call the church office (215-855-4676) or email graceassis-tant40@gmail.com. Perhaps a friend or relative could pick the envelopes up for you. Grace Office hours are 9 am to NOON, Monday through Thursday. Just a reminder that you should **not** use the 2022 envelopes until January 2022. Thank you.

EEC Food Cupboard Needs

The food cupboard at *Emmanuel E.C.* (100 S. Main St., Hatfield. Parking Lot: 24 W. Lincoln Ave.) is always accepting contributions.

Latest needs: Olive (black or green); canned mushrooms; vinegar (16 or 32 oz); dishwashing liquid; laundry detergent; body wash; shampoo; conditioner; razors & shaving cream (men & women's); 13 gallon trash bags; quart or gallon zip top baggies.

Any questions, call or email Carol MacDonald

BREAD DROP REMINDER

With the cold weather coming, the need is greater for nourishing food for those in need! Lou Farrell would like to remind you how to prepare donations. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, or fruit or snack bags, are greatly appreciated. You can find specific instructions for how to prepare these on our website, on the Bread Drop page under Community. Drop off is on Tuesdays from 8 am to 7 pm. Thank you from Lou!

Sanctuary Village Beer-Tasting Fundraiser

Join Lou and Cathy Farrell here on January 22 from 3-5 p.m. here at Grace for another beer-tasting fundraiser to benefit Sanctuary Village, of which Cathy is board president. We did this back in July, and if you were present, you know you won't want to miss this one! You'll gain insights into the origins and production of various brews, laced with dramatic stories such as the one about the exploding beer (tell it again, Lou!). Plus all the funds raised go toward a project dear to our hearts, the tiny house community that will be built this coming year in Philadelphia providing much-needed affordable housing to those who have nowhere else to turn. A donation of \$40 per person is requested. This event is planned to be outside in parking lot for maximum safety. Outdoor heaters will help keep us warm.



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!



Lynn Fasick
Office Phone: 215-855-4676
Church Office:
graceassistant40@gmail.com

Pastor Nancy Raabe
pastorgracehatfield@gmail.com

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

Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music
kevinf@musician.org

January 2022

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|--------|---|
| Jan 1 | Happy New Year |
| Jan 13 | Drive through spaghetti dinner fundraiser |
| Jan 22 | Beer Tasting Fund-raiser |
| Jan 30 | Annual Meeting |



See Important Details Inside or go to:
Gracelutheranhatfield.org

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