

Parish News

Grace Lutheran Church gracelutheranhatfield.org

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

Inside this issue:

March 2022

I have never been a good one for favorites. My favorite thing is always where I am at the moment. My favorite Mahler symphony? The one I most recently heard. My favorite season of the church year? The one we are in. Therefore, Lent is my favorite season. This might not be a popular choice. Isn't there a lot more to celebrate during Christmas or Easter?



If you're the partying sort, yes. But maybe instead you are the praying sort. Lent which extends to us the welcome invitation to slow down, clear away the clutter, spend time in prayer and reflect deeply on where we are and who we are.

From Pastor Raabe: Lent: My Favorite Thing

Lent comprises the 40 days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday, March 2, through sundown on Maundy Thursday, April 14. On Ash Wednesday we will hear the bracing Invitation to Lent, whose opening sentence counters the notion of Lent as a season of gloom: "Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation."

But...what? That's right: Sin, as our confirmands know who recently studied the story of creation in Genesis 2. Sin distances us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we are not able to enjoy the life God intends for us.

Yet that is not the end of the story, for in his death and resurrection Christ freed us from this bondage to sin. We <u>are</u> free, but the reality of spiritual warfare never stops tempting us to forget about this. How often we turn away from God! Lent bids us every year to return with all our heart.

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Page 2 From Pastor Raabe cont.

Always within the assurance of God's never-ending love and forgiveness, the church invites us this time each year to make a 40-day road trip. Along this road we will encounter signposts pointing toward ways we have lost sight of God. We will be refreshed at rest stops where we practice disciplines that open our hearts once again to be reunited with God in heart, mind and spirit. You can make this road trip on your own if you like, but why not make it together as members of Christ's church? Join us, however you are able.

But...what else, you say? Forty days is a long road? Where do we get the fuel to keep going? From prayer. The cost of gas keeps rising, but prayer is free. Prayer is the central discipline of Lent that makes all others possible. A popular practice is "centering prayer," in which you spend 10 minutes or more each day on focusing on a single word that fits your image of God on that day. Or you may choose to rest in selected verses of Psalm 51, my favorite psalm (at the moment!). There you will find a litany of eloquent confessions of sin, each paired with a life-giving expression of confidence in God's restoring mercy. Pick a pair of verses to carry with you during each day. You can make about four trips through Psalm 51 this way during Lent.

What we will experience on our 40-day journey is the process of *metanoia*, the gradual turning of the heart back to God and then outward toward the world. This restoration prepares us to walk with Jesus with full and open hearts into the Great Three Days at sundown on Maundy Thursday.

Traditionally the Lenten discipline has been understood as one of prayer, fasting and good works. While prayer is central, fasting has become culturally popular. Around the age of 7 or 8 our son Martin proudly proclaimed he was "giving up checking the weather for Lent" (this was long before apps and cellphones). A friend of mine chooses some food delight to give up each year, which always makes him miserable and, to be honest, tempts him to overdo it on Easter.

The true spirit of Lenten fast, though, is to abstain from practices that draw us away from God. "Do you fast? Give me proof of it by your works," John Chrysostom, the 5th century Bishop of Constantinople, once preached. "If you see a poor man, take pity on him. If you see an enemy, be reconciled to him." Rather than giving up something for Lent, Lutherans tend to embrace the vigorous call to restore the fullness of life to all people that we find in Isaiah 58:6:

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

Here at Grace we are especially good at this, knowing that our good works always come from the outpouring of love from faithful hearts. Please make sure to read about our annual Rice Bowl collection on page 15.

"Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life," Chrysostom continued "The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs."

I look forward to seeing you on the road.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Raabe

From our Minister of Music

We have a new organ!

The organ task committee and I are glad to announce that we have found an organ for Grace! In an ongoing search, the committee found various options for an organ but the one found that is perfect for us is from Bethlehem, PA. Its former owner is an 89 year old organist who bought the organ a while back but ended up in a most unfortunate circumstance rendering her unable to play anymore.



The organ is a fully complete Allen church organ in pristine condition with lots of new technology. The organ offers unique features that will engage our congregation for years of hymn singing and beautiful music. We have started the process to install the organ. It has certain components that will be completed by Easter, but the main console has been moved to the church and work has begun on its installation. By the time you read this article, I believe you will have heard the new organ.

Page 4 Minister of Music cont.

As part of the organ installation, there are new speakers in the main speaker chamber but we were able to use the older speakers as antiphonal speakers mounted on the rear ledge. These extra speakers won't add a lot more volume but will help fill the space with sound no matter where you are sitting.

It is also possible that we will have an extension of the organ's features using something called "MIDI" which stands for "Musical Instrument Digital Interface." This allows the organ to connect to other sound sources. We are planning to incorporate a featured component driven by a computer software called "Hauptwerk." This software is a newer technology whereby a real pipe organ and all of its pipes have been digitally recorded. All the sounds can then be played back as if the organist is playing a specific pipe organ. For example, there are organs that have been recorded in Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands and the U.S.A, and we can play and hear those organs. Just imagine listening to an organ piece by Bach being played on an organ that Bach was familiar with; or hearing a French organ toccata played on the cathedral organ on which it was originally composed. Some fine American organs have also been recorded and we hope to have some of those sound sample sets as well. Over time, as we introduce the basic idea, it may become more appealing to acquire more sound samples. For the moment, we will have a basic preview of these organs. Some are free and some require purchase at a minimal cost. All of these possibilities allow us to enjoy the new organ in a way you've never imagined. I promise that what you will hear will be very nice, beautiful and even stunning!

Please feel welcome to ask me any questions. I can't wait to play for worship and have us sing to raise the roof at times! We will be planning a dedication for the new organ in the near future. Stay tuned.

To God be the Glory,

Kevin



March Calendar

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. Wednesday at 6:15pm is Yoga in the Fellowship Hall

Join Pastor Raabe every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at 10 a.m. on Zoom for **Morning Prayer** and Monday's at 8pm for **Compline** (Night Prayer) on Facebook

Tue Mar1, 2022 Wed Mar 2, 2022 Fri Mar 4, 2022 Sat Mar 5, 2022	7:00pm	Stitchers WELCA Ash Wednesday Service Ash Wednesday Service Cub Pack 510 Banquet setup Pack 510 Blue & Gold Banquet
Sun Mar 6, 2022	8:00am 9:15am 10:30 am	Worship Service / Communion Sunday School with 9:30 Zoom Adult Bible Study Worship Service / Communion
Tue Mar 8, 2022	•	Property Team Meeting Worship & Music Meeting
Wed Mar 9, 2022	•	Choir Rehearsal Lenten Service
Sun Mar 13, 2022	8:00am 9:15am 10:30am	Worship Service Sunday School with 9:30 Zoom Adult Bible Study Worship Service
Tue Mar 15, 2022 Wed, Mar 16, 2022	7:00pm	Council Meeting (Zoom option)
Thu Mar 17 2022	•	Happy St. Patrick's Day
Fri, Mar 18, 2022	7:00pm Parish Ne	Cub Pack 510 Committee Meeting ews Articles Due
Sun, Mar 20, 2022	8:00am 9:15am	Worship Service / Communion Sunday School with 9:30 Zoom Adult Bible Study
Tue Mar 22, 2022		Worship Service / Communion Parish News Compiled

INReach meeting

Choir Rehearsal

Lenten Service

7:00pm

1:00pm

7:30pn

Wed Mar 23, 2022

Page 6 Calendar cont.; Grateful Grace; Lent

Thu, Mar 24, 2022 4:30pm Drive-through Spaghetti Dinner

7:00pm HEART meeting

Sun, Mar 27, 2022 8:00am Worship Service

9:15am Sunday School with 9:30 Zoom Adult Bible Study

10:30am Worship Service

Wed, Mar 30, 2022 6:15pm Last Yoga Class

7:30pm Lenten Service

Thu, Mar 31, 2022 7:30pm Communication Team Meeting (Zoom)

Grateful Grace

The Giving to God team is pleased to share that \$1,500 in funds collected in 2021 for **Grateful Grace** is being sent to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Levittown, NY, which experienced a devastating fire on Christmas Eve 2020. Good Shepherd is deeply appreciative of our support. You may still make use of the Grateful Grace envelope for 2022 in your special offering box, or simply send a check to the church with Grateful Grace in the memo line. If you know of a church that has experienced a catastrophic event, please let our team members or Pastor Raabe know and we consider that for 2022. Thank you! The Giving to God team – Ken Seiler, chair, with Jaime Snyder and Wendy Walter

Please join us for worship during Lent. We welcome this special season with Ash Wednesday services on Wednesday, March 2 at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m. (the latter will be livestreamed), both including the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion. If you cannot join us in person, let Pastor Raabe know as soon as possible if you'd like a packet of ashes mailed to you to use during the livestream. Wednesday night Lenten services are March 9-April 6 from 7:30-8 p.m. on the theme of "Returning," each themed on a different aspect of the parable of the prodigal son. Sunday services remain in person at 8 and 10:30 a.m., with the 10:30 service livestreamed from our YouTube channel; find the link on Facebook or on the "Worship" area of our web site and download the bulletin to follow along. Morning Prayer continues live on Facebook every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 10 a.m. and Compline (Night Prayer) at 8 p.m. every Monday, or watch these later on our Facebook page. As you can see we have many worship options! Please let us know if you need help finding any of these; call the church or write to Pastor Raabe at pastorgracehatfield@gmail.com.

Drive-Through Spaghetti Dinner and Birdhouse Silent Auction

Our fundraising team for the Habitat for Humanity/Thrivent Faith Build project on Cowpath Road is moving into high gear! On Thursday, March 24 from 4:30-6:30 we are offering a full spaghetti dinner with all the trimmings, with sauce specially prepared by Chef Lou, for just \$10 each. Drive up, place your order and you'll quickly be on your way home with dinner for whole family. Everything is being donated or obtained with grants so that 100% of all proceeds will go to the Faith Build. Spread the word and take some flyers to post around town!

On March 6 and 13 we will also be holding a silent auction for colorful birdhouses our Sunday School is building and decorating during February. Please stop by Fellowship Hall on those days to place your bids; winners will be announced on March 20, in plenty of time to take to hang or mount your birdhouses to get them ready for spring occupancy. Again, all materials are being donated so that all



funds raised can go to the Faith Build. Look for more news about Faith Build events in May.

Lenten Study on the Psalms

Join Pastor Raabe on Sunday from 9:30-10:15 from March 6-April 3 to be drawn into intimate encounters with God through the psalms. Called the "prayer book of the Bible," the psalms offer us direct experiences with God that are uniquely ours through expressions more than 2,000 years old which are as fresh as if they were written today. We will be using the book "Intimacy with God: A Bible Study in the Psalms" by Cynthia Heald; books are \$10 each or Pastor Raabe will be happy to gift you one. A Zoom option will also be made available. Please let her know ahead of time if you are interested in participating. Bring your Bible and we will enjoy comparing translations. Occasional attendance will work well if that suits your schedule.

Description of the book: "Heald shows how the Lord personally meets with you in the Psalms. As you progress in your spiritual formation, you'll become more honest and vulnerable before God as you track the Psalmists' struggles and triumphs on their way to intimacy with 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, Merilyn Forst, Bob Rufe (Mary Jane Moyer's brother), Bailey Vinson (Liz Bauer's greatgranddaughter), 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, Donna Herman (friend of the Badmans), Judith Stangl (John's sister), Johanna Lonie (Tami Sarm's niece).

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

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

Drive Through Spaghetti Dinner

Raise Your Fork for a Good Cause!

Grace Lutheran Church

Date: Thursday, March 24th

Time: 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Place: 40 N. Main Street

Hatfield, PA

**Across from the

Hatfield Post Office

Meal Includes Spaghetti
With Sausage, Salad,
With Sausage, Salad,
Bread & Dessert. Gluten
Bread & Option Available.
Free Option Available.
Cost: \$10.00

Pasta with a Purpose

PROCEEDS BENEFIT:







Page 10 March Serving Schedule

March	2	6	13	20	27
Early	Service				
Altar Guild	NA	Wendy Walter	NA	Wendy Walter	NA
Communion Assistant	NA	Not needed	NA	TBD	NA
Lector	NA	Peggy Schmidt	Walter Family	Karen Seiler	Karen Seiler
Acolyte	NA	Usher	Walter Family	Usher	Usher
Ushers	NA	Don Capanear	Walter Family	Ken & Karen Seiler	Ken & Karen Seiler
Late	Service				
Altar Guild	TBD	Emily Woltmann	NA	Emily Woltmann	NA
Communion Assistant	Not needed	Not needed	NA	Jaime Snyder	NA
Lector	Jean Shaffer	Jaime Snyder	Beth Krout	Slugg Family	Richard Badman
Acolyte	Cristiano Tula	Lennon Kaler	Elijah Krout	Lennon Kaler	Cristiano Tula
Ushers	Kay Stone / TBD	Slugg Family	Jeff & Beth Krout	Kay Deussing & TBD	Kay Deussing & TBD
Live Streaming	H Schaefer, D&T Sarm				

Council Sender: TBD

Yoga; WELCA Page 11

YOGA (Hatha) CLASS back by popular demand.

Classes will be at 6:15pm.—7:15pm through Wednesday 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



Congratulations to Bob Smyrl, Council President and Jaime Snyder, Council VP as well as Cathy Farrell and Don Capanear, newly elected members.

WELCA

WELCA Ladies, once again I can't believe how fast the months are going; our next meeting will be March 2nd at 10am. We will continue with Our Time with the Word. I was checking the calendar and I think we will also be doing the Easter cards for the homebound members. Easter is April 17th. I know it's very early, so I will send them out in April. You don't need to bring cards; we have enough. I saw that Earth day is also in April and last year we did cards to be sent out with a pack of seeds. I'll give you more information in March. I hope this is ok with everyone. Bring a lunch if you wish, and, of course, a mask. I hope to see you there. As always, everyone can join us.

Take care and stay safe, Barb

Page 12 Sources of Food; Laurel House Thanks; Stepping Stones

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 1 & 15
Tuesday evenings 5:30-6:30 pm: Mar 8 & 22

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.

Stepping Stones Update

We are ready to March into Spring! Stepping Stones will be busy this month with Pretzel Day, our Spring Fundraiser, Pajama Day, Camo Print Day, and, of course, St. Patrick's Day! If you're interested in participating in our fundraiser please check the office area for a catalog! The fundraiser will start on 2/28 and will wrap up on 3/14. Orders can be placed in the Stepping Stones Director mailbox in the church office area. We are also looking forward to Spring where we will be FINALLY installing our garden! If you have any interest in volunteering to help with this process please reach out to me at steppingstonesoffice@verizon.net. Looking forward to the season change and for brighter evenings!



EASTERLILIES 2022



Orders for Easter Lilies are now being taken. The flowers will be used for the Easter Services. The DEADLINE for ordering is Sunday, 4/3/2022.

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 - \$10.50/7" pot, 45 blooms	<u> </u>	\$
In Memory of:		
In Honor of:		
Check here if you will NOT be		
Ordered by:		<u> </u>
Phone No		7 <u>2</u>

Make checks payable to: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



Page 14 EEC Food Cupboard

EEC Food Cupboard Update

The EEC Food cupboard is continuing to experience a high volume of clients during these cold winter months. There are many people in our community that have food insecurity, **some for the first time in their lives**, and your donations are a HUGE blessing to many of our neighbors in Hatfield. *On March 13 Janet Hague will be with us in worship at both services to tell us more!* Thank you!

Latest Food Needs:

cooking oil, canned mushrooms, olives—green or black, ketchup & mustard, salad dressing, mayonnaise, boxed pasta any shape (no spaghetti) and cereal (no oatmeal or grits)

Items that can NOT be bought with SNAP (formerly "food stamps")
paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, body wash, shampoo, conditioner, men's
and women's razors & shaving cream

Upcoming distribution dates & times (masks required):

Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm: March 1 or 15

Tuesdays 1 – 2 pm: March 8 or 22

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. You can also call/email Carol MacDonald for more information.



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!

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.

Rice Bowl Page 15

Rice Bowl Project Begins Sunday, March 6th

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**.

The **Hatfield Food Cupboard** provides help to people in Hatfield who are in need of food. Shoppers at the Food Cupboard may pick out the foods they need for their family. Our church members donate food to the Hatfield Food Cupboard throughout the year.

Manna provides meals for the homeless and those in need. They provide a free 12 -week training program in culinary, life and work skills helping individuals regain economic stability. As of 2/3/20, Manna began providing meals for Montco SAAC's daily group meals and Meals On Wheels programs in Norristown, Glenside and Ambler. Manna is receiving support from Generations of Indian Valley--provider of Meals on Wheels to Indian Valley and North Penn regions. Through this contract, Manna is serving meals to over 600 Montgomery County seniors. Manna also follows COVID protocols. These updates are listed on their website.

Through World Hunger your gifts can help people in need around the globe. **ELCA World Hunger** is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.



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

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

March 2022

March 2 Ash Wednesday

March 9 First Wednesday Lenten Service

March 17 Happy St. Patrick's Day

March 24 Drive-through Spaghetti dinner



See Important Details Inside or go to:
Gracelutheranhatfield.org