



PARISH NEWS

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

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

Rev Nancy M Raabe

June 2022

From Pastor Raabe: Agents of Transformation

Have you had a time recently where you felt as if you were spiritually stuck, spinning your wheels, going through the motions without the spark of insight that gives you “strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow”?



If so, then it may be time to look for a sign.

God the Holy Spirit is always giving us signs, but sometimes we are too busy to notice. For me a sign came the other day. I wasn’t really stuck, but there were so many details swimming in front of my eyes that I had momentarily lost sight of the big picture.

It happened at Walmart as I was hurrying in and out on my way home from church. As I approached the entrance, I scanned the checkout counters for one that did not have long lines. At the far end I saw one that was lit but empty. Standing out in front, apparently waiting for someone to come by, was the checker, a petite friendly-looking woman. “Are you open?” “Yes of course!” she said, scooting back behind her station. Seeing my collar she asked, “Are you a pastor?” She briefly shared that she had been a missionary to the Far East but no longer went to church, and then added, shaking her head, “There is so much evil in the world.”

This was something I did not expect to hear. All I could think to say was, “What should we do about that?” She raised her eyebrows as if I should have the answer. So, Grace Lutheran Church, what *should* we do about that?

I took this immediately as a sign that the church cannot be coasting at this particular time. Oh, how we long for the “good old days” when everyone came to church (as many of you have told me, when you were growing up “because we had to”), the pews were filled, life bubbled along and everyone seemed content! Of course, they weren’t, really; there was as much evil in the world as there is now. It’s just that with our nerves rubbed raw after two years of a pandemic that has now become endemic, our anxieties have rocketed to the surface. But maybe that is a good thing, because we can’t just let them sit there all raw and exposed. So what should we do?

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We hope you like our new newsletter “look.” Fold back for easy reading! You may also request to receive Parish News by email (in full color), or find it on our web site under the Home menu.

Evil is not only bad things that happen to good people. It is bad things that people deliberately inflict on their fellow human beings because, in their cocoon of self-interest, they have lost sight of the greater good. So, then, how can the church help bring us back to that awareness of that greater good?

In the Grace book group's final meeting after reading Jane Goodall's *The Book of Hope*, our discussion centered on a recurring topic--the terrible division that is destroying our sense of unity as a nation and a people. Jane calls for action as a sign of hope, so we decided that hosting a public conversation at Grace, on a topic to be carefully determined, might be a way to begin to address this. If we are ever to return to civil discourse, what better place than the sacred spaces of church to take the first step, a place steeped in the conviction of God's love and that all people and all are equally worthy in God's sight?

I was pleased to find a resource published online a few years ago by Baylor University titled "The Church's Role in a Divided Society." You can read it here: <https://www.baylor.edu/pdi/doc.php/353681.pdf>.

Grace is no stranger to difficult conversations. With a facilitator, I believe we would be well equipped to host a forum or even a series. The Baylor resource emphasizes the importance, first, of full understanding of both sides on a given issue, of knowing the strategic facts and how they affect the way each group thinks, and then moving beyond those to discern what deeper motivations and values are driving them. What we would prayerfully hope to learn through our community conversations is not what divides us but what unites us. What underlying values do we share in common, and how can we return to those in an effort to move forward together?

It is when common ground is lost that evil takes root. A sense of isolation is the breeding ground for all forms of harm that people do to others. If we at Grace could take even tiny steps toward opening up deeper understandings, I truly believe we will be helping to resolve the problem of evil. As people of God, let us always be agents for transformation in our worship, in our lives, and in everything we do. †



From Our Minister of Music

I want to begin my thoughts by offering a public thank you to Bonnie Stangl for her devotion to Grace, keeping track of many details and providing a well-organized Newsletter for our church community. Bonnie, it was refreshing to have you on top of things especially with the "reminders" that newsletters are going out soon and that deadlines are approaching!

How many of you have "digital" calendars such as a cell phone with a google calendar or similar? Or maybe you might use a computer and check off things in the calendar there. Or you might just be really used to a paper calendar and stick to using that for reminders. Remember the days of posting notes on the fridge? Maybe you still do that! The significance of anything like this, or people like Bonnie, is that we all appreciate



reminders. It's so easy to fill up your day or your week and then maybe you'll have a little time to do something random and fun.

Looking ahead, Sunday, June 5th is Pentecost but it's also the Sunday we are going to dedicate our new organ. As you might recall, we've added a platform for the organ console which gives the flexibility to move it a few feet for a closer connection to working with the choir and then move it back out of the way so I have more use of the piano. Our "music space" is somewhat limiting but with the platform, we have options. Another option is being able to move the console even further as it might be useful for weddings or services or maybe a concert where the organ functions better in a temporary location. There are many aspects of our new organ that will be revealed at our worship service on June 5th. Following that service, I will also have a "gather around the console" time for anyone wishing to have a close-up demo of some features. I'm looking forward to sharing more with you and to show you why I'm so delighted and excited to have our new organ!

Coming up in the next few weeks, our choir season and rehearsals will take a summer break but we are planning to have an end of season luncheon together. The group has had some wonderful musical moments when our sound has really blossomed. It even has taken my breath away how beautiful their sound has been. I'm so appreciative of their patience and work during the year as we've endured COVID protocols and made it to the end of a season without too many roadblocks. Over the summer I'd love to extend to ALL OF YOU a chance to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:15am to sit with us in the choir area as you are interested and comfortable. We'd meet about 15-20 minutes beforehand to get our places and maybe look over a song or two. We will have songs each week that will be most enjoyable with a group effort. And if you're interested in singing a solo on a song, please tell me!

May you all be blessed. Whatever you feel most at peace thinking about, know that God's there. God is Love and dwells in each of us. † Kevin

June Serving Schedule


Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers
9:15 am Service					
06/05/22 Pentecost	Kay Stone/ E. Woltmann	Kathy Stawasz	Beth Krout	Elijah Krout	Beth & Jeff Krout
06/12/22 Holy Trinity	Emily Woltmann	Jaime Snyder	Jean Shaffer	Lennon Kaler	TBD
06/19/22	Emily Woltmann	Carol MacDonald	Carol MacDonald	TBD	TBD
06/26/22	N/A	N/A	Jean Shaffer	TBD	Kay Stone/ Don Capanear

June Calendar

- 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 from 8am-7pm. Wednesday at 6:15pm is Yoga in the Fellowship Hall

Wed June 1, 2022	10:00am	WELCA
Sun June 5, 2022	9:15am	Worship/Pentecost/ Communion
Tue June 7, 2022	7:00pm	Stitchers
	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
Wed June 8, 2022	7:30pm	Worship and Music Team Meeting
Sat June 11, 2022	4:00pm	Lutheran Night at the Phillies
Sun June 12, 2022	9:15am	Worship/Holy Trinity/Communion
Thu June 16, 2022	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Committee Meeting
Fri June 17, 2022		Parish News Articles Due
Sat June 18, 2022	8:30am	Yoga Fundraiser for Sanctuary Village
Sun June 19, 2022	9:15am	Worship/ Communion
		Happy Father's Day!
Mon June 20, 2022	7:30am	Stepping Stones Summer Camp begins
Tue June 21, 2022	7:00pm	Council Meeting (Zoom option)
Wed June 22, 2022	7:30pm	HEART Meeting
Sat June 25, 2022	9:00am	Grace Faith Build Day at 2714 Cowpath Rd.
Sun June 26, 2022	9:15am	Worship
Tue June 28, 2022	7:00pm	INReach Meeting

Please note: We have returned to our summer schedule of one service at 9:15 a.m., followed by fellowship, starting May 29.



WORDS OF GRATITUDE

Dear Pastor Nancy and fellow worshippers,

From the bottom of my heart, and with sincere love I'd like to thank you all for your prayers and concern. You all have been special and very kind to us and my family. Bailey [Liz's great-granddaughter] is not getting any better, but I truly believe God will perform a miracle. You have been very kind with the offering of prayer, food, and kindness. I ask that you continue with prayers for all of my family. Pastor Nancy has been very kind and special in allowing me to be aware of sick people in our church. May God bless and heal all of us. Thank you for caring. I hope to be back in church soon.

Love to all, Liz [Bauer] and Tom [Widlund]



Many thanks to the ladies who sent me birthday cards for my 88th birthday. It was very thoughtful. I so appreciate your kindness.

Dee Mancuso

Thank you for the soup. Also "The Word in Season," I read it every day. Thank you, Pastor, for the palm cross. The blanket the Scouts made is beautiful. Please thank them for me.

Truly, Doris Griffenberg



THANK YOU to everyone who purchased carnations and silk sunflowers for our Mother's Day Project. The pink and white carnations and the bright yellow sunflowers looked beautiful on the chancel area. The funds from our project will be sent to the ELCA Disaster Response to aid the refugees throughout Eastern Europe due to the crisis in Ukraine. Thanks for your generosity!!



The Giving in Service Team



Women of the WELCA

WELCA ladies, I can't believe how fast this year went. On June 1st the Salters once again have invited us to their house for our picnic (thanks again, Salters). Please bring a salad or a dessert to share. I hope everyone will be able to come; even if you're not a member of WELCA you are always invited. We are also going to put together snack bags for the National Guard that will be training at Willow Grove the first week in June. The bags will be filled with snack size chips and granola bars. We will be doing 100 bags. Hope to see everyone (please wear a mask). Take care and stay healthy.

Barb Watts

Summer Wednesday Evening



Grace Summer Picnics will be held in July and August! Dinner will be served at **6:30 pm**. Bring your favorite **picnic dish** to share and a lawn chair or blanket. If you have a favorite **outdoor game** to share, bring it too. *Event is rain or shine!!*

Dates for our picnics: **July 13th and 27th August 10th and 24th**

If you would like to host one of our picnics, please contact Kay Stone

Congregation Council meeting highlights – May 17, 2022

The Council discussed allocation of the \$37,900 Grace recently received from the Federal Government's Employee Retention Credit program, and approved seeking proposals for upgrades to our livestream production, landscaping, and website. Elsewhere on the agenda, the Stepping Stones flower/vegetable garden project was also discussed.



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: Bob Kaler, Suzanne Colville, Pam Matolicz, Paige Haldeman, Nancy Sellers, Liz Bauer, Doug Boldon, Carol Buffone, Cassi Lambert, Kristopher Yoder, Annette Beyer, Cindy Kunkel, Ron and Karen Hudson, Lisa Kane, Joyce Salter, 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 great-granddaughter), Sandy Klinger, Chuck & Linda Arkins (H3C friends), Dave Kunkel, Sue & Faith Rowbottom, Joy, Gary & Nicky Torgeson (Sue Rowbottom's family), 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, 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), Whitney Buterbaugh (close friend of MC and Bob Reilly's daughter), Daniel Hopwood (Tom Hopwood's son), Gerry Mason (Richard Badman's son), Rosemary & Skip McCoy (Liz Bauer's sister and brother-in-law), Cheryl Davis (Paul MacDonald's sister), Laurie Ronan (the MacDonalds' neighbor), Jim Finnemeyer (John and Jean Weierman's nephew), Deb Mandell Cub Pack 510 treasurer), Lucia Morales (Crystal Tula's mother-in-law), Lou Farrell, William Reilly (Bob Reilly's brother).

For all who grieve, including the family and friends of: Betty Murray, Margaret Stangl (John Stangl's mother), and Terry Stringfellow (friend of Dale and Mary Jane Moyer), Ralph Schultz (Karen Seiler's father), Jeff Hinton (friend of Kay and Frank Stone)

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, Matthew Smyrl, Army



YOGA RETREAT FUNDRAISER: Saturday, June 18 from 8:30am – 3:00pm, \$100 donation. Enjoy a peaceful day of yoga here at Grace, and the opportunity to experience the joy of movement through 4 different yoga practices. Suitable for all levels! A healthy lunch is included. All proceeds will benefit Sanctuary Village, a nonprofit providing the means for people to transition out of chronic homelessness through a community of tiny houses. Register online at www.tinyhousecommunity.org.

YOGA (Hatha) CLASS through June

Every Wednesday through June 29, 2022 from 6:15-7:15 pm.

WHERE: Grace Lutheran Church Parking Lot or Fellowship Hall, 40 N. Main Street, Hatfield

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 (Men too) everyone is welcome. Contact Kathy Stawasz at 215-760-6297 for more information.



EEC Food Cupboard

Summer warmth is finally here...a good thing for those of us with arthritic joints, however, it is a challenge for children/families who will be needing extra food on their shelves while schools are closed for a couple of months. With that in mind, your generous donations and volunteer time are a wonderful blessing for our Hatfield neighbors. Below please find the most recent pantry shortages. Your

donations can be placed in our narthex bins OR, if necessary, in the outside food cupboard plastic bins located by the doors leading into Stepping Stones. Please be aware...if food is left outside in the heat, it might not be picked up for 24 - 48 hours.

Latest Food Needs: olives - green or black, flour, sugar, coffee - instant or ground, lasagna noodles, cold cereal (no Cheerios); mayonnaise, ketchup, salad dressing

Items needed that clients can NOT purchase with SNAP (formerly "food stamps"):

hair conditioner, laundry detergent, men's & women's shaving cream, body wash, zip-top bags: quart

Upcoming distribution dates & times:

Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm : June 7 and 21

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: June 14 and 28

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/household items. Messages for Janet Hague can be left at 215-855-2540; foodcupboard@yahoo.com.

You can also call/email Carol MacDonald @215-872-0472

GRACE LUTHERAN DAY at the FAITH BUILD SITE!

Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery and Delaware Counties has given us our very own day to help build at the site, located 2714 Cowpath Road: **Saturday, June 25**

from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. There are 12 slots available. Please help out – we want to fill all 12 places! Anyone 16 or older is welcome to participate. No experience is

necessary--just come and learn how to build a house and enjoy fellowship on the construction site. Lunch is provided. Sign up in the narthex under the 2 x 4s, or call the church office.



RICE BOWL 2022

The *Giving in Service Team* would like to thank the congregation for supporting our **Rice Bowl project** during the Lenten Season. Our Rice Bowl offerings totaled \$2,395 to date.

Our gifts will be shared with **The Hatfield Food Cupboard** at Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church, **Manna on Main Street** in Lansdale, and **the World Hunger Appeal** through the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. These special offerings will touch our neighbors in our communities as well as those neighbors around the globe.

Gifts to the Rice Bowl may be given at any time.

STEPPING STONES UPDATE

Summer is coming in hot and we are ready at Stepping Stones! We are looking forward to our Perky Penguins Graduation on 6/13 and to the start of Summer Camp on 6/20! Children's chapel will also be resuming with the start of camp and we can't wait to get back into the Sanctuary for regular sit downs with Pastor Raabe! We, of course, will also be looking forward to other fun days such as Dress to Impress Day, Wear Red, White, and Blue Day, Wear Blue for Father's Day, our Water Ice Party, and our fan favorite; Pretzel Day! Keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram to see what we've been up to. We're always busy learning something new!



Jessica Moran, Director



Exciting youth opportunities this summer!

- **Summer Youth Service Camp July 11-14 at Grace, St. Paul's Telford and Emmanuel Souderton**
Elementary through high school ages: Three days of activity and fun for hosted by these three churches of the Indian Valley Cluster, from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. each day (lunch included). Each church will host a day of service projects, activities, and games. Our day is July 13, and July 14 will be a "fun day" with a possible trip into Philadelphia. Look for information coming soon about how to register!
- **VBS: "Food Truck Party," August 1-4 at Little Zion Lutheran Church, 267 Morwood Rd, Telford.**
Grace families, let's join with our neighboring churches for the Food Truck Party Vacation Bible School from 9 am-12 noon on August 1-4. Hosted at Little Zion Lutheran and partnering with Grace and St. Paul's Lutheran, Telford and Zwingli UCC, Souderton, we're looking for "chefs" in preschool (age 3) - entering grade 5. During our Food Truck Party, we'll learn about the ways that God loves us so we can love others. We're also looking for teens and adults with a passion for sharing God's love with kids. Even if you are only available to volunteer for some of the time, helpers are needed for many roles, from assisting with snack time to leading our Pre-K group. For more information about VBS and to volunteer, contact Pastor Raabe here at Grace, call Little Zion's church office at 215-723-7404, or email administrator@littlezion.org.



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.



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 Pastor or a Church Council member know if you would prefer that you and/or your child's image not be used.

Give to Grace: We rely on your generous giving to sustain Grace and all its ministries. Please see the “Give” page of our website to direct your electronic giving. You can sign up with Pastor Raabe for direct deposit giving, you may text a gift to Grace at 844-613-0815, or you may click on the adjacent QR code to arrange for your gift. Thank you!



Face masks: Although the rate of Covid-19 cases continues to rise in our area, Grace has not reinstated its mask requirement. Nonetheless we are gently advising that wearing masks in the building is the best form of protection for you and others. Please observe all the best safety procedures to which we are so well accustomed, including allowing plenty of space around you when you come forward to receive communion.

Survey for Worship Services at Grace

If you are an active member of Grace, please clip this page and return or mail it to the office. The survey has also been sent electronically by email to all Grace members.

The Worship and Music Team has recommended a survey of Grace members to help with the decision-making process to continue to worship at 9:15 am for the remainder of 2022, following the regular summer schedule of 9:15 am worship services. Sunday Church School would begin in September at 10:15 am following the worship service.

1. Are you in favor of moving to one Sunday morning service for the remainder of 2022? Yes ____ No ____

If no, please share your comments:

2. Do you agree with the start time of 9:15 am for Church and 10:15 am for Sunday School? Yes ____ No ____

If no, please share your comments/suggestions:

Your name, please: _____

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Stepping Stones 215.368.2052
Jessica Moran, Director

**June 5 Pentecost / Communion
Organ Dedication**

June 12 Holy Trinity / Communion

**June 19 Worship / Communion
Happy Father's Day!**

June 25 Grace Faith Build Day



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40 N. Main St.
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