



PARISH NEWS

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

www.gracelutheranhatfield.org

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA Rev Nancy M Raabe January 2023

From Pastor Raabe: Present, Past, Future

Christmas present

I am writing this early on the day after Christmas. In the darkness and quietness of these moments I can finally feel some of the “heavenly peace” that we sang about on Christmas Eve. (Maybe you know that pastors can’t really worship when they are leading services—we are in a different mode—although I have to say that the youth chimes’ magical introduction to “Silent Night” at our 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service was as close as I’ve ever had to the feeling of worship during a service I was leading. Thank you, Kevin and our talented musical children!)

The heavenly peace I’m feeling is not that of relaxation, as in “I can finally take a breath,” but the renewed confidence of knowing that God’s gift for us, his Son born into our cluttered, messy world, is our rock and refuge, the confident hope to which we can always turn, the voice that calls out to us in the midst of the swirling storms of life: “Come to me, all you who are weary, and I will give you rest.”

The most profound Lutheran hymn writer of all time, Paul Gerhardt, heard this call too. In his hymn “All My Heart This Night Rejoices” (1656), in an inspired insight Gerhardt perceived it coming from the newborn child:



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5 Softly from his lowly manger
Jesus calls one and all,
"You are safe from danger.
Children, from the sins that grieve you
you are freed;
all you need
I will surely give you."

Our family sings this hymn at home every Christmas Eve. I hope Bill won’t mind when I say that this stanza always brings tears to his eyes.

Christmas past

Here in “Christmas present,” I am also reflecting on our shared Christmas this year, filled with gratitude for:

- The ten members of the Weierman family, four generations strong, who came to church on the fourth Sunday of Advent to light the four candles of the Advent wreath, and our other families who also participated in this ritual.
- Our “Longest Night” service, which fell on the actual longest night of the year; we lit the wreath to a litany of remembrance that invited us to voice the heartache of pain, loss, and the burdens we carry.
- Our three glorious Christmas Eve services and that on Christmas Day, at which attendance significantly exceeded expectations. It was wonderful to see so many extended family members. Please come back so I can get to know you better!
- The youth skit at the 4 p.m. service, organized by our Sunday School staff and youth parents. It featured Charlie Roney as the voice of a deeply distressed—and then inspired—trine God, who finally resolves not to destroy the world but to send the Word to save it (if you followed closely, you heard that the decision was made by the Creator and the Spirit, who did not allow the Word to get a word in edgewise). Our 4 and 9 p.m. services can be viewed on our website under the Worship menu of our website or our YouTube channel (to find that, search the Internet for “Grace Lutheran Hatfield YouTube”). Enjoy the crisp new look and sound of our video production, expertly handled by Harold Schaefer and Dan Sarm.
- All the musicians who lifted us into God’s presence at our services—flutists Beth Krout and Wendy Walter, trumpeter Will Shaffer, bell ringers Carol MacDonald, Tami Sarm, Harold Schaefer and Wendy Walter, guitarist Harold Schaefer, and our youth chimes from Kevin’s “Jump Into Music” program – and of course Kevin himself, who channeled heavenly glory into all our services through the sounds of great organs of the world.
- Our ushers, who handled with grace the mild pastor-caused confusion over communion procedures at the 4 p.m. service and who expertly navigated our way at the 9 p.m.
- The kind Christmas cards and generous gifts I received, collectively and individually. I treasure them all.

Christmas future

Most of all, I am filled with gratitude for each of you who cares enough to be reading this newsletter, to come to church, and to support our mission and ministry here in our community. This is a forward-looking gratitude because you, your energy and your desires will lead us into the new year.

What lies ahead? I got a glimpse of what Grace can become in a paragraph in a recent edition of the *Reporter*. The front-page article spoke of plans for a new Wawa on Forty Foot Road at the intersection with Sumneytown Pike. A Towamencin supervisor described this central location as “our ‘Main and Broad Street’ of our community.”

That sparked the thought: We are *actually at* Main and Broad! But are we living into our geographical location? And if the answer is “no” or “not yet,” what will take us there? How can we become the Wawa of Hatfield Borough, the community meeting place where lives intersect and hope is born anew? (The analogy holds because there IS new hope, every morning, in Wawa’s coffee.) We have not only a prime location, but worship and gathering spaces that are the envy, in my experience, of everyone who enters for the first time. To fulfill this hope, we need leadership. Won’t you consider getting involved in some way to realize our “Main and Broad” promise – on Council, on our various ministry teams (see the list of those on the bulletin board in the narthex), or as part of new groups that you are welcome to suggest we start? Have you ever thought, “If only Grace had....”? Let’s make it happen together.



From Our Minister of Music: Jump Into Music



In November, a few of our youth participated regularly in Jump Into Music after worship on Sunday mornings. The group then played in worship on November 20th at the end of the communion song. We heard them play the Pachelbel Canon melody while I accompanied them on the piano. What a great job they did! Pastor Raabe even admitted that she had tears in her eyes. It really was a special moment. Why are we Jumping into Music? I came up with this name for the kids' music ministry because we literally "Jump into Music" immediately after worship. The kids have been

sharing a lot with me about the music they do at home and at school. Some of them are tackling the skill of learning an instrument in school, too. It's been such a pleasure to spend a little time each week with them. We also talk about their thoughts about music they like to listen to. And they ask me lots of questions about what I do in music and playing the piano. There's definitely a spark of interest they all share in common and no matter what the age differences, music enables them to share and be proud of what they each can do in music. Last week, we had a very special moment with 8 kids Jumping into Music. We've started learning how to play chords together on chimes and they did such a great job following and listening! All of that made me feel very good because following and listening is a huge part of any music group. And when we put all our chords together, it formed a song - Silent Night, Holy Night. I'm sharing of the kids, but if you could see their faces and their eyes, they all lit up with interest and eagerness to give music a try. Some kids had 1 chime and others had 2. The other fantastic part of this was how some of the parents of the younger kids stepped in to help their kids and share in the excitement!

My most sincere wishes for a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Joy to the World,
Kevin



Celebrate Epiphany, the season of light!

On **Sunday, January 8 at 3 p.m.** Grace is hosting a Lessons and Carols for Epiphany presented by churches of the Indian Valley Cluster. Join pastors and members from Advent Lutheran in Harleysville, Christ Lutheran in Kulpville, Emmanuel in Souderton, Little Zion in Telford, and St. Paul's in Telford to sing some of the joyful hymns and carols of the season. Enjoy a colorful procession of the three magi and special refreshments afterward. Star of wonder, star of light!



"Stepping" into the New Year

Welcome to the New Year at Stepping Stones! We are welcoming lots of new faces to our family and can't wait to reign in the New Year together! Stepping Stones will be closed on 1/2 for New Year's Day and on 1/16 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day and will be celebrating lots of silly spirit days as well! Stepping Stones will also be hosting CPR and First Aid on Saturday, January 21 at 10:00 AM so if you're interested in becoming certified at your own cost please reach out to Pastor Raabe or to Miss Jessica!

-- Jessica Moran, Director, Stepping Stones

January Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Crucifer	Coffee Hour
01/01/23 10:30 am	N/A	N/A	TBD	Usher	K. Deussing	N/A	N/A
01/08/23 Baptism of Our Lord 8:00 am 10:30 am	J. Swartz E. Woltmann	B. Schmidt K. Stawasz	P. Schmidt B. Krout	Usher E. Krout	D. Capanear/ R. Smyrl K. Deussing/ J. Krout	N/A	Kay Stone
01/15/23 8:00 am 10:30 am	J. Swartz E. Woltmann	D. Kunkel N/A	K. Seiler The Sluggs	Usher Usher	K. & K. Seiler The Sluggs	N/A	Don Capanear
01/22/23 8:00 am 10:30 am	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	W. Walter R. Badman	Usher C. Tula	The Walters K. Stawasz/ C. Tula	N/A	Diane Ball
01/29/23 8:00 am 10:30 am	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	K. Seiler J. Shaffer	Usher Usher	K. & K. Seiler K. Heacock/ J. Krout	N/A	Don Capanear

Council Offering/Lock-up for January is 8:00 am—Peggy Schmidt; 10:30 am—Jeff Krout
Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

2023 Serving Schedule is now available – Thank you for Serving! We couldn't do it without you. The 2023 serving schedule can be found in the narthex with your name highlighted. The schedule includes a cover sheet, the schedule, and a list of everyone that serves which includes their phone number and email. Kathy Stawasz will also be emailing this schedule to you.

January 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.
- Yoga every Wednesday at 6:15 pm.
- Choir every Sunday at 9:30 am.

Sun Jan. 1, 2023	10:30am	New Year's Day (one worship service)
Mon Jan. 2, 2023		Church Office & Stepping Stones Closed
Tue Jan. 3, 2023	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed Jan. 4, 2023	10:00am	WELCA
	1:00pm	Choir

Sun Jan. 8, 2023	8:00am	Worship/Communion - - Baptism of our Lord
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship/Communion
	3:00pm	Epiphany Service
Tues Jan. 10, 2023	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Sun Jan. 15, 2023	8:00am	Worship
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship
Mon Jan. 16, 2023		Stepping Stones Closed—MLK Day
Tues Jan. 17, 2023	7:00pm	Council Meeting
Sun Jan. 22, 2023	8:00am	Worship
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship
Wed Jan. 25, 2023	7:30pm	HEART Meeting
Sun Jan. 29, 2023	8:00am	Worship
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship
	11:30am	Congregational Meeting after worship

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

- To everyone who made our Christmas services so special, including ushers and all worship helpers. Much effort was put into planning and preparation, and it really showed. We are especially grateful to our youth families for their participation and support.
- A joy-filled thanks to Kevin for lifting us into the music of the angels, and for coordinating the youth chimes and all the other musicians for Christmas Eve.
- To those who adorned our worship space for Christmas with the changing banners, nativity scenes, and other touches that brought the beauty of the season to our sanctuary and narthex.
- To Ashley Groff for creating the beautiful Christmas 2022 ornaments for our kids.
- To those who arranged the gorgeous poinsettia display for Christmas Eve. Don't forget to take yours if you ordered one.
- A special thank you to Kitty Heckler for sponsoring our Christmas tree this year, and for those who transported it to church, set it up, and kept it watered.
- To those who continue to help out with Bread Drop deliveries, putting out coolers Tuesday mornings and taking the filled coolers up to Emmanuel in Souderton on Tuesday evening.
- To our INReach team for all the special ways they let our homebound members know they are remembered in love at this time of the year. We received many cards and expressions of gratitude.
- To our Sunday School staff and youth parents for organizing and rehearsing our Christmas Eve skit.

*Thank
You*

JOY
Love
HOPE PEACE
Believe
Christmas

WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

WELCA, I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and also a great New Year's Day. We won't be having a meeting in January due to the fact that I'm not sure about the weather and I want all you ladies to be safe, hope to see everyone in February. Details for that meeting will be in the February Parish News. Take care, Barb

ANGEL BOXES 2022

Someone said to me this year, if you need anything for the Hatfield Community or Grace Lutheran, all you have to do is ask the Grace Family. They will provide. And this certainly is true this year.

When we realized the number of Hatfield families in financial stress had increased, the food cupboards knew it would impact the amount of food and personal hygiene products they offer their families. With your help, the Adopt A Families received numerous products and there was still much more available to be shared between the two Hatfield food cupboards. Both food cupboards said the timing of these donations couldn't have come at a better time.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention our terrific corporate and community sponsors. Besides all of your contributions many organizations also contributed to these efforts including the American Legion, the Hatfield Police Benevolent Association, the Hatfield Lions, Laboratory Testing, Glick Fire Equipment, Hatfield Women's Civic, Berkshire Hathaway Home Services, Keystone Properties and many individuals.

Thank you to all of the helpers and members of the Catechetical Class sorting and assembling boxes for the Adopt A Family project and food cupboards. Your help made this job go so much quicker.

Thank you all for your continued support of those who need a hand up and not a hand out. We could not help our Hatfield neighbors without your generosity and wonderful donations.

One of our business sponsors sent a note, "Praise God for His goodness through it all! God bless you and I hope you have a peaceful and joy filled Christmas!"

MC Reilly



Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project 2022

Thank you for supporting the Adopt A Family project. The gifts have all been distributed! *The Giving In Service Team* appreciates your generosity!



YOGA (Hatha) CLASS Continues

Every Wednesday at 6:15; we resume on January 4. 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 the ability to focus on breath and awareness.

\$7/class (make checks payable to Grace Lutheran Church)

Contact Kathy Stawasz at [215-760-6297](tel:215-760-6297) with any questions.

PRAYER LIST

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 Need of Ongoing Prayers:

Liz Bauer, Suzanne Colville, Marilyn Forst, Helen Godshall, Bob Kaler, Peggy Long, Hazel Mascaro, Gerry Mason (Richard Badman's son), Pam Matolicz, Bob Rufe (Mary Jane Moyer's brother), Joyce Salter, Nancy Sellers, Bailey Vinson, (Liz Bauer's great-granddaughter), Sue & Faith Rowbottom.

In Current Need of Prayers:

Cassi Lambert, Kristopher Yoder, Annette Beyer, Cindy Kunkel, Ron and Karen Hudson, Lisa Kane, Jerry Mascaro, Lorraine Snyder, Vickie West, Sandy Klinger, Debbie Zuech-Smyrl, Madiafe Sheriff, Rhonda Wagner Berger (granddaughter of the Wagner property original owners), 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), Daniel Hopwood (Tom Hopwood's son), Laurie Ronan (the MacDonalds' neighbor), Jim Finnemeyer, Tom Burke (Laura Kratz's daughter's co-worker), Bill Reilly (Bob Reilly's brother), Jan Madigan (Sue Wieland's niece), John Renick, Lou Farrell, Joan Wright & Alicia Hollingsworth (friends of Linda Renick), Brittany Brown, the family of Lori & Jim Pluda, Diane Pierson, Betty Parry (friend of Kay & Frank Stone who is recovering from a fall and just lost her husband), Adrienne Kroesser & family (friends of Jaime Kaler), Robert Naragon (friend of Frank & Kay Stone), Joanne Moyer, Mark Belt (friend of Kay & Frank Stone), Sheran Shenk (friend of Bruce & Peggy Schmidt).

For all who grieve, including the family and friends of: Ron Thomsen and Lewis Parry (friends of Kay & Frank Stone), Ruth McMahan (Laura Slugg's mother), Dolores McGlinchey, Lorraine Snyder (Jaime Kaler's grandmother).

For those in active duty military service: Robert McNulty, Marines, Jessica Murphy, Air Force; Matthew Smyrl, Army; Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard; Eric Gutsche (Janice Swartz's grandson), boot camp.

For active military deployed overseas: Kyle Murphy, Air Force

Offering Envelope Update

"Where are my 2023 offering envelopes?" They are coming! In the meantime, you can pick up your "Building" set at church and use that for all your offerings until the main set arrives. We'll make sure to get the main boxes to you quickly when they arrive.



Welcome (Warming) Center

With winter approaching, the Warming Center Task Force led by Council member Cathy Farrell has been hard at work to get the Center up and running. They would appreciate donations of the following. If you can donate any of these supplies, please let Cathy Farrell know or just bring them to church:

Instant coffee, Keurig coffee servings, tea, hot chocolate, sugar, powered milk for creamer (Coffee mate), packets of soup, cups, (drinking and coffee), bowls, paper towels, napkins, plastic utensils, trash bags, coffee stirrers, coffee filters, and toilet paper. We also are in need of a snow shovel, ice melt and power strips. And if you have any spare board games or decks of cards, feel free to donate those as well.

Thank you for your help!



EEC Food Cupboard

In December, your incredible generosity was evident in all the food & household products you provided to others. Janet Hague and her team of volunteers did their best to quickly date-check, sort, and shelve most of the donations that came from Grace & Scouting for Food. Usually, that is enough to help supply the food cupboard for months. With the current need in our community, many of those items went straight into the shopping area as many shelves were depleted without having backup in storage. These resources were so appreciated as large numbers of our neighbors are waiting hours for their turn to shop at the food cupboard. Your ongoing, consistent response is a wonderful blessing as the large Scouting for Food initiative is only once a year. Thank you so much for picking up one or two extra items for our neighbors in need each time you shop. Every offering is helpful!

Below, please find the most recent pantry shortages:

Food: Spaghetti sauce, cooking oil, vinegar (1 qt), salad dressing, mayonnaise, Spam, canned pineapple, flour, sugar

Household & Personal Care*: body wash, 13 gal trash bags

Gift Cards: Grocery gift cards are always welcome

*If clients are able to get some monetary help from a government assistance program (SNAP), these items can NOT be purchased with those funds.

Your non-perishable 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 (preferably on Sunday mornings when it can be brought inside).

Please be aware...if food is left outside in the elements, it might not be picked up for a few days.

Upcoming distribution dates & times:

Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm: **January 3 & 17 & 31**

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: **January 10 & 24**

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; macdonald125@comcast.net



Flower Sponsors – the 2023 sign- up sheets are in the Narthex if you would like to sponsor flowers in 2023. Pick your dates now!! Cost \$17.00 each. Questions contact Kathy Stawasz 215-760-6297

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**Stepping Stones 215.368.2052
Jessica Moran, Director**

**January 1st New Year's Day
one worship service at 10:30am**

January 2nd Church Office & Stepping Stones Closed

**January 8th Baptism of our Lord
Epiphany Service at 3:00 pm**

January 16th Stepping Stones Closed—MLK Day

**January 29th Congregational Meeting after worship
At 11:30 am**



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