



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

March 2023

From Pastor Raabe: Dust, the Invitation of Lent

Lent is my favorite season of the church year. I think this is because its inwardness is so different from what we find around us in our daily lives. There is nothing wrong with daily life, but aren't we all here because we are seeking something deeper? Lent takes us there. Having put away our Alleluias until Easter, we spend these weeks pondering the journey of Jesus to the cross and cultivating the yearning deep within us to return to God with our newly cleansed hearts.



And yet all is not somber and slow. There is joy in Lent. It is just a different kind of joy than we find in the celebratory seasons. Many years ago, as he was preparing for Ash Wednesday services in the monastery, Thomas Merton wrote that "In a minute we will go barefoot to get ashes on our heads to remember, with great relief, that we are dust. The source of all sorrow is the illusion that of ourselves we are anything but dust. God is all our joy and in him our dust can become splendor."

Remember that you are dust. These treasured words on Ash Wednesday lead us into this season. Lent is a time of letting go of all that obscures or drowns out our essential dust-ness. We may not fully succeed, but Lent invites us to practice letting go of who we pretend to be, who we think others want us to be, who our parents always told us we should be, who we always hoped that one day we might become. Whatever your age, the measure of time becomes irrelevant. Instead, Lent calls us to look in the mirror and say, "This is who I am, I'm doing the best I can." We lift our essence to God as an offering of dust from the universe and hear the reply: "Well done, good and faithful servant."

*You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."*

*For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night. (Psalm 90:3-4)*

What are some ways you can let go of that which obscures your essential dust-ness?

- On your commute, instead of listening to music in your car simply observe the world around you and (when it's safe) especially the sky.

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- Stop complaining so much; whatever the object of your complaint, be grateful that you have it in the first place.
- Declutter your main living area to showcase what's really important to you.
- Stifle the whim to impulsively shop online and try to make do with what you have.
- Never use your phone at the dinner table; instead, turn your full attention to those who you are fortunate enough to share a meal with.
- Pray with the conviction that God always responds. "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it." (Mark 11:24)
- Don't hold grudges; instead, chalk up the offending behavior to experience and get on with life.
- Study the stars at night on those rare clear evenings. Learn their names, their progression across the sky, and greet them regularly: "Hello, Sirius; hello, Procyon."

Let your dust be that of the splendor of the stars.

Yours in Christ's love,

Pasta Nanny Raabe



From Our Minister of Music:

What do you think about when the liturgical seasons change? Maybe it's something you don't think about because in a liturgical setting perhaps one might assume that it's just our routine. It is a routine but it is also a journey, not just in the church's liturgical life but in our personal life as well. As we gather to celebrate Christmas, New Year's, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, all of those times have associations in the life of Christ but also in our lives. We listen to scripture and sing hymns that all pertain to the seasons and in that we draw personal connections that may deepen our prayers and the way we live each day. The seasons sometimes may have a connection to a time of year when we celebrate something special in our family or maybe remember difficult times and how we placed our hearts in trusting God to get us through those moments. Whatever we find as we head toward a new liturgical season, we can walk together because all of us have similar experiences and thoughts that make being a member of the body of Christ a place of comfort and a place to share joys.

I'm thinking of the Lenten hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." Its text is filled with theology and when sung, can be an emotional experience. I'm always moved to the point of tears when I sing the verse: "Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small. Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all."

Before I close my thoughts, I want to say thank you for your kind thoughts and meaningful prayers for my mother who, as you may know, passed on Jan 27th in quiet and peaceful rest at home. In many ways, my mom loved me and found comfort in me being a church musician. I am honored to be your music director and live among many fine people such as yourselves. Thank you, Grace congregation, for your warm and caring ways.

In peace,
Kevin

LENTEN WORSHIP

Lent begins each year with the sacred and solemn service of Ash Wednesday. Lent continues for the next five Sundays. Our theme this year is “Water in the Wilderness,” in which we’ll focus on the central baptismal image of rebirth as we encounter some of scripture’s most vivid narratives, including the stories of Nicodemus, the woman at the well, Lazarus, Ezekiel and the dry bones, and the man born blind. Your pastor, for one, can’t wait to delve into these with you.



Wednesdays in Lent will once again be shared by the Hatfield churches at 7:30 p.m. on March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, **at a different church each week.** The schedule is: March 1 at Grace, March 8 at Heidelberg UCC, March 15 at St. Maria Goretti, March 22 at Emmanuel E.C. and March 29 at Hatfield Church of the Brethren.

We warmly encourage you to attend these as a way of experiencing different worship styles and of course sharing in the good fellowship.

March Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Crucifer	Coffee Hour
03/05/23 8:00 am	W. Walter	K. Seiler	R.Smyrl	Usher	R. Smyrl & D. Ball	N/A	Don Capanear
10:30 am	E. Woltmann	C.MacDonald	Carol MacDonald	Carol M.	J. Kaler & C. Tula		
03/12/23 8:00 am	N/A	N/A	Walter Family	Usher	Walter Family	N/A	Kay Stone
10:30 am	N/A	N/A	T. Sarm	E. Krout	J. Krout & K. Deussing		
03/19/23 8:00 am	W. Walter	B. Schmidt	K. Seiler	Usher	D. Ball & D. Capanear	Jayson Tula	Bruce Schmidt
10:30 am	E.Woltmann	K. Stawasz	J. Tula	C.Tula	C. Tula & K. Stone		
03/26/23 8:00 am	N/A	N/A	K.Seiler	Usher	K. & K. Seiler	N/A	Diane Ball
10:30 am	N/A	N/A	R.Badman	Usher	J. Kaler & K. Stone		

Council Offering/Lock-up for March is 8:00 am—Don Capanear; 10:30 am—TBD

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

March 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.

Wed March 1, 2023 10:00am WELCA
7:30pm Hatfield Community Lenten Service

Sun March 5, 2023 8:00am Worship/Communion
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship/Communion

Mon March 6, 2023 6:30pm INReach
Tues March 7, 2023 7:00pm Stitchers
Wed March 8, 2023 2:00pm Choir Rehearsal
NO Yoga

Sun March 12, 2023 8:00am Worship
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship

Tues March 14, 2023 7:00pm Worship & Music Team Meeting
7:00pm Property Team Meeting

Thurs March 16, 2023 4-6:00pm Drive Through Spaghetti Dinner

Fri March 17, 2023 Happy St. Patrick's Day

Sat March 18, 2023 9:30-3:00pm Stitchers of Grace Stitch-In

Sun March 19, 2023 8:00am Worship/Communion
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship/Communion

Mon March 20, 2023 7:00pm Stepping Stones Committee Mtg. via Zoom

Tue March 21, 2023 7:00pm Council Meeting in person, Zoom option

Sat March 25, 2023 3:00-9:00pm Cub Pack 510 Blue & Gold Banquet

Sun March 26, 2023 8:00am Worship
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship

Mon March 27, 2023 7:30pm Communication Team Meeting

Tues March 28, 2023 6:30pm INReach Meeting

Wed March 29, 2023 2:00pm Choir Rehearsal

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

- To our Confirmation parents for providing lunch for our class at each month's meeting.
- To our Communication team for their work and updates on the website redesign. Check it out!
- 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.



Counting the Days

Maybe you've noticed that Lent doesn't fall during the same time every year. Because Lent always starts exactly 46 days before Easter Sunday, its dates always depend on Easter, which is a floating holiday. How do we determine Easter, in the Western tradition? It has to do with the moon. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring Equinox. This year we have a new moon on March 20; the first full moon isn't until April 6, so Easter falls on April 9.

And why is Lent 40 days long? (Sundays don't count.) The number 40 has always had special spiritual significance regarding preparation. Mentioned 146 times in scripture, the number 40 generally symbolizes a period of testing, trial or probation:

- During Moses' life, he lived 40 years in Egypt and forty years in the desert before God selected him to lead his people out of slavery.
- Moses was also on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights, on two separate occasions (Exodus 24:18, 34:1 - 28), receiving God's laws.
- He also sent spies, for 40 days, to investigate the land God promised the Israelites as an inheritance (Numbers 13:25, 14:34).
- The prophet Jonah powerfully warned ancient Nineveh, for 40 days, that its destruction would come because of its many sins.
- The prophet Ezekiel laid on his right side for 40 days to symbolize Judah's sins (Ezekiel 4:6).
- Elijah went 40 days without food or water at Mount Horeb.
- And of course Jesus was tempted by the devil many times during the 40 complete days he fasted just before his ministry began. He also appeared to his disciples and others for 40 days after his resurrection from the dead.

Stepping Stones News

Spring is in the air and we cannot wait! We are starting off March with Camo Print Day on the 1st, Pretzel Day on March 8th, and Pajama Day on March 10th! We will also be holding our bi-annual fundraiser from March 6 - March 17th that helps to sponsor our special programs at Stepping Stones. So if you're interested in ordering please see Miss Jessica or Miss Rebecca for a catalog. Stepping Stones will also enjoy St. Patrick's Day parties on the 17th and will be wearing Spring colors for the start of Spring on the 20th. Additionally, Picture Day will be held in the Fellowship Hall on 3/21 for all Stepping Stones students. As a final note, if you go out in the woods on the 31st you better not go alone; it's lovely out in the woods that day but safer to stay at home; for every bear that ever there was will gather here for certain because that day's the day the teddy bears have their picnic! Stepping Stones will be having a Teddy Bear Picnic outside (weather permitting) and the kiddos are just so excited to picnic with their stuffed pals. March is jam-packed and we can't wait to share April with you! -- Jessica Moran, Director, Stepping Stones

WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

Our next meeting will be March 1st. We will be doing Easter cards for our Homebound members, please bring some cards with you. I don't think we have any left from last year. If any of you have any suggestions of what projects we can do, please let us know. Last year we got snacks together for the National Guards that were training at Willow Grove. Hope to see everyone. Take care, Barb

Easter (the Easter Egg Hunt) is on its way....

Hippity hoppity, the Easter Egg Hunt is coming! Toddlers through age 12, join us here on **Saturday, April 1** at 2 p.m. for lots of fun. We start in the sanctuary with storytime, followed by crafts and eggs galore. Rain or shine!

Grace members, please bring bags of SMALL pre-wrapped candy to church anytime starting March 5. Help fill the eggs after 10:30 worship on March 26!



Rice Bowl Project continues through Palm Sunday, April 2nd

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:

Hatfield Food Cupboard at Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church which provides food to those in need in the Hatfield area.

Manna on Main Street in Lansdale which provides food and hot meals for those in the Lansdale area.

World Hunger Project through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which provides education and food for people around the globe.

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 Kitchen prepares and distributes to-go meals every day for anyone in need.

Monday – Thursday: 10am – 2pm Friday – Sunday: 10am – 1pm

Manna serves a sit-down meal four days per week for anyone in need.

Monday – Thursday: 4:30pm – 6pm

In addition, Manna provides in-person or online shopping for those who qualify.

Visit their website to see more information about what Manna does. <https://mannaonmain.org>

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.

THE DRIVE-THROUGH SPAGHETTI DINNER IS BACK!

- **Date:** Thursday, March 16 from 4-6 p.m.
- **Where:** Right here in our parking lot! Drive in, order and have a steaming meal brought to your car.
- **What:** Three-course meal – spaghetti with sausage (or vegetarian), salad, garlic bread, salad and dessert. GF bread on request.
- **Price:** \$10, cash or Venmo
- **Proceeds:** Supports Grace youth programming, including registration for the Summer Youth Service Camp in June.



Spread the word! Take flyers and post them around town!

SPRING STITCH-IN

Come and join us for an afternoon of 'stitching'! Bring a project and join the fun as we spend time working on new projects or tackling those unfinished projects! Or – come and learn a new craft from a fellow 'stitcher'! Any type of stitching will do – Embroidery, Cross Stitch, Punch Needle, Crochet, Knitting, and Rug Hooking to name a few.

DATE: Saturday, March 18, 2023

TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ****Doors Open at 9:30 a.m.**

COST: Free Will Offering

PLACE: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



For Reservations and/or Questions, please contact Peggy Schmidt at (peggy@tailsoftheafterlife.com, 267-222-8449) or Wendy Walter at (wwalter@verizon.net - 215-721-1418)

**Door Prizes & Raffles* A lunch of Hot Dogs/Soup and Snacks and Beverages will be provided*

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, 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, Adrienne Kroesser & family (friends of Jaime Kaler), Robert Naragon (friend of Frank & Kay Stone), Joanne Moyer, Sheran Shenk (friend of Bruce & Peggy Schmidt), Sandra and Daniel Ellis-Killian, Angelina Mascaro, the family of Liz Eliff and the Laymen Playmen family, Lewis Brett (Mary Jane Slugg's cousin).

For all who grieve, including the family and friends of: Ruth McMahon (Laura Slugg's mother), Dolores McGlinchey, Lorraine Snyder (Jaime Kaler's grandmother), Courtney Walsh (daughter of Liz Eliff, very active member of Laymen Playmen), Judy Freaney, Joan Reilly (Bob Reilly's sister-in-law).

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).

deployed overseas: Kyle Murphy, Air Force

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. A reminder that if the Welcome Center is activated, you will receive an email about this and a post will go up on our Facebook page. If you do not have email or Facebook, call the church office, 215-855-4676, and if the Center is open you will hear a message announcing that.



Valentine's Day Project

Thank you for supporting our Laurel House project. Your gifts will help to provide financial support for families within the Laurel House programs. Gift cards give parents the ability to buy gifts for their children, as well as other essential, basic needs.

The Giving in Service Team

EEC Food Cupboard

Janet Hague and her team of volunteers at the EEC Cupboard are continuing to get your very generous donations date checked, sorted, and shelved at the food cupboard as the need in our community continues to grow. These resources are so appreciated as large numbers of our neighbors are waiting hours for their turn to "shop" in order to put food on their tables at home. Your ongoing, consistent response is a wonderful blessing. 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: boxed pasta, canned fruit (no applesauce), 100% fruit juice, chunky soup (all flavors), pancake syrup, flour, sugar

Household & Personal Care*: shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream

Gift Cards: Grocery gift cards are always welcome

*Clients cannot use government assistance (SNAP) funds to purchase these items when they shop at grocery stores.

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 : March 7 & 21

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: March 14 & 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; macdonald125@comcast.net



EASTER LILIES 2023



Orders for Easter Lilies are now being taken. The flowers will be used for the Easter Services. The DEADLINE for ordering is Sunday, 3/26/23.

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 - \$11.25/7" pot, 4-5 blooms	_____	\$_____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Check here if you will NOT be taking your Lilly home with you.

Ordered by: _____

Phone No. _____

Make checks payable to: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church



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Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator
Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music

Stepping Stones 215.368.2052
Jessica Moran, Director

****Please note the location of the
Lenten Services. They are at a different
Church each Wednesday.**



March 1 st	Lenten Service here at Grace Lutheran
March 8 th	Lenten Service at Heidelberg UCC
March 15 th	Lenten Service at St. Maria Goretti
March 16 th	Drive Through Spaghetti Dinner
March 17 th	Happy St. Patrick's Day !
March 18 th	Stitchers of Grace STITCH-IN
March 22 nd	Lenten Service at Emmanuel E.C.
March 29 th	Lenten Service at Hatfield Church of the Brethren



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