



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

April 2023

The Joy of Worship

Holy Week is just around the corner, the most dramatic week of the church year. If you love the church and its worship, you do not want to be left in the dust. Arriving at Easter morning on April 9 without the experience of all that leads up to it, starting on Palm Sunday, April 2, is like frosting with no cake--a sweet encounter but without the substance that gives it meaning.



Most of the year in church we sit passively in our chairs or pews, but during Holy Week we become actors in the story. At Grace this year we are devoting Palm Sunday entirely to a celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem without the Passion narrative that, in modern practice, has come to dominate that day.

Why are we doing this? Because WE are those people hailing the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem. All we know is the joyful procession and the loud acclamations. We have no idea of what lies ahead. "All glory, laud, and honor!" and "Hosanna, loud hosanna!" we will sing, as Jesus enters riding on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah.

On Maundy Thursday (from the Latin "mandatum," or "command," referring to the commandment Jesus gives that night to love one other as he loves us), we join the disciples around that table in the Upper Room as Jesus assumes the role of the servant that prepares him for the ultimate act of servanthood the next day. Allowing our feet to be washed takes us into Peter's own experience of setting aside his pride and allowing Jesus to wash his feet.

Good Friday, April 7, then brings us the spellbinding passion narrative. We stand at the foot of the cross looking up in disbelief and bitterly lament our participation in Jesus' death. This day is the high point of the entire church year. What God has done in Christ, for our sake, is nowhere more apparent or visceral than in the Crucified God hanging on the cross.

As we hear this narrative and see it in our imagination, we take Jesus' suffering and death into our own bodies. Without this experience of Good Friday we cannot fully receive the transporting joy of Easter. Without death there is no resurrection. Jesus was really, truly dead, and he really, truly rose two days later after the utter stillness of Holy Saturday, fully and bodily alive – just as we too will rise on that great last day when all creation is reconciled in God's love.

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Come and worship! Welcome the invitation to become the people of Jerusalem during Holy Week as we move through these climactic days of "the greatest story ever told," and go beyond Easter Sunday to share the good news with all the world in the weeks and months that follow. Alleluia!

Yours in Christ's love,

Pastor Nancy Raabe



From Our Minister of Music:

What are your sources of information? Years ago, I would think everyone received the newspaper. You or a family member may have even been a newspaper delivery person. I grew up around folks who also loved the Funny Pages but never quite related to having a favorite character I might follow. Either way, I think it was a good thing to find a place and time to laugh and enjoy a little humor amidst "the news".

Today we see our news in several ways that are broadcast on tv and all the media formats and apps on our cell phones. News is everywhere and instant! If you think about it, how does it impact our lives? Think deeply... or not! I find all this information "highway" to be so fast paced that sometimes the slow things in my life tend to go unnoticed. There is a revolving moment each day when I think, what am I supposed to do tomorrow? Or in the next several hours? Sometimes I need to refer to my calendar to find all the things I said I would do.

My thought here and how it relates to being your music minister is that you know that music at Grace is growing. We are planting seeds in our music life and it continues to grow. There are things that happen all the time which stem from a song that we sing or an opportunity to share music with someone new. In the chance that you have been moved by music, let me say, that's "good news!"

Pastor Raabe and I were talking about how we notice people at times moving and singing to music! Music has a life and while we each may find different melodies or words to capture our attention and move us, we are part of the rhythm that makes music come to life. I've had many conversations with folks who say they really don't know much about music or sing very well, but that they enjoy our songs or have a favorite song. Hearing those things are music to my ears!

Each week I've been reserving time for our kids to "jump into music". In doing that, we only have a handful of minutes each week to do this, but each child has shown interest and a desire to share things about music and how music fits into their life. Even if a child doesn't have a strong interest to play or sing music, they do have a natural curiosity in how things work to make music or at least want to see if they have music ability. It can be intimidating to "try it out." It's a bit like trying on a new pair of jeans and finding ones that fit just right. Until you find it, you might prefer to just keep wearing your old jeans. Either way, we form our likes and dislikes quite easily it seems. Be it hearing, seeing, doing, or watching others, we find things that we feel fit us well. Music, as you may have heard before, is a universal language. It gives all of us a chance to think about things in a new way or remind us of things that we already know that make the "good news" in our lives more enjoyable.

Be on the watch for a melody and a new rhythm, see if it fits you. As always, I love hearing about your thoughts and interests in music. Keep me informed of your favorites but also the things you like about something new you might hear.

Because I love Grace and seeing all of you each week, my hope is that you find a smile today to share with me the next I see you!

Love and goodness,
Kevin

April Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
04/02/23 8:00 am Palm Sunday 10:30 am	L. Kratz K.Stone & T. Sarm	D. Kunkel K. Stawasz	R. Smyrl B. Krout	Usher E. Krout	R. Smyrl & D. Capanear J. Krout & K.Deussing C. MacDonald & K. Stone	Kay Stone
04/06/23 Maundy Thurs. 7:30 pm	L. Kratz & K. Stone	F. Stone	J. Shaffer	Usher	TBD K. Duessing/ TBD	
04/07/23 Good Friday 12 noon 7:30 pm	N/A	N/A	J. Shaffer P. Schmidt	Usher Usher		
04/09/23 Easter 6:30 am 8:00 am 10:30 am	J.Detweiler K. Stone & T. Sarm	B. Schmidt F. Stone	P. Schmidt R. Badman	Usher Usher	D.Capanear & P.Schmidt K. Stone & K. Heacock	Bruce Schmidt
04/16/23 8:00 am 10:30 am	L. Kratz K. Stone & T. Sarm	Ken Seiler Bob Reilly	R. Smyrl R. Badman	Usher Usher	R. Smyrl & D. Ball J. Krout & K. Deussing	
04/23/23 8:00 am 10:30 am	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	Walter Family Slugg Family	Usher Usher	Walter Family Slugg Family	
04/30/23 8:00 am 10:30 am	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	Karen Seiler Bob Reilly	Usher Usher	Ken & Karen Seiler K. Stawasz & C. Tula	Kay Stone

Council Offering/Lock-up for April is 8:00 am—Laura Kratz; 10:30 am—TBD

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

April Calendar

- The Jesus Love Church (formerly Central Philadelphia) 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.

Sat April 1, 2023	2:00pm	Easter Egg Hunt, Crafts & Storytime
Sun April 2, 2023		Palm Sunday Celebration: Procession with palms, festive hymns and children's donkey walk
	8:00am	Worship/Communion
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship/Communion
Tues April 4, 2023	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed April 5, 2023	10:00am	WELCA – help with Stepping Stones Grandparents Day
Thurs April 6, 2023	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday: Worship, communion, foot washing
	7:00pm	Choir meets in Fellowship Hall
Friday, April 7, 2023		Church Office and Stepping Stones closed Good Friday: The Passion of Christ in story and song: 12:00 noon and 7:30pm
	7:00pm	Choir meets in Fellowship Hall
Sun April 9, 2023		EASTER SUNDAY
	6:30am	Outdoor Sunrise Service on Grace's veranda/Communion
	8:00am	Indoor festive worship/Communion
	10:30am	Indoor festive worship/Communion
Tues April 11, 2023	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
Thurs April 13, 2023	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Committee Mtg. via Zoom
Sat April 15, 2023	9:30am	Celebration of Life /Abraham Rittenhouse
Sun April 16, 2023	8:00am	Worship/Communion
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship/Communion
Tues April 18, 2023	7:00pm	Council Meeting in person, Zoom option
Thurs April 20, 2023	6:00pm	Stepping Stones CPR & First Aid training
Sun April 23, 2023	8:00am	Worship
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship
Tues April 25, 2023	6:30pm	INReach Meeting
Wed April 26, 2023	2:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat April 29, 2023	9:00am-5:00pm	Yogathon
Sun April 30, 2023	8:00am	Worship
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

- To our Property Team for the diligent and demanding work of overseeing the renovation of 30 N. Main, and to the Grace congregation for approving additional funds so that the work may be completed in time for a late-spring or early-summer rental.
- To all those who packed Easter eggs (and sampled the candy) for the Easter Egg Hunt on April 1, and to our Sunday School staff and kids for enthusiastically helping.
- To our Communication team for their ongoing work on the website redesign.
- 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.

Thank
You

WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

Our next meeting is April 5th. This month we are doing something different, we were asked by Pastor Raabe if we would like to help Stepping Stones children in decorating eggs for the Adopt-A-Grandparent Day. The time is 10 am to 12 noon, so please be at the church before 10 am. This should be fun! Thank you. Barb

Stepping Stones News

Feels like it's been Winter for two years, doesn't it? But Spring is finally upon us and we are so happy to see Mr. Sun again! We are looking forward to having Easter Egg Dyeing with Grandparents on Wednesday, April 5th followed by a visit from the Easter Bunny and a Stepping Stones Egg Hunt on the 6th. Stepping Stones will also be closed on April 7th for Good Friday. Our Perky Penguins are already practicing for graduation as their date is approaching in June and they're looking sharp as we do test runs in our caps and gowns!

April 20th at 6:00 pm we will host another CPR and First Aid training with space for a limited amount of participants so if you're interested in attending at your own cost (\$60.00 per participant), please send an email to graceassistant40@gmail.com or steppingstonesoffice@verizon.net by 4/10 so we can get you on our roster in time! -- Jessica Moran, Director, Stepping Stones

The EASTER EGG HUNT is here

The date is **Saturday, April 1!** Toddlers through age 12, join us starting at 2 p.m. for lots of fun. We'll start with coloring and crafts, then move into the sanctuary where your artworks will help illustrate the Easter story. Then comes the HUNT! Rain or shine!



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.** As of March 19th, your gifts have totaled **\$1673.**

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**.



Laurel House Thank YOU

The *Giving in Service Team* would like to thank the congregation for supporting our Laurel House project. Through your generosity, **22 gift cards** (\$25 each) were given to help families at Laurel House. The thank you note from Laurel House stated “donations such as yours put food on the table, clothes on people’s backs and other basic needs that we often take for granted.”

BOOKS FOR BABIES

“Books for Babies” has taken on an additional purpose. Not only are we collecting books for Mitzvah Circle Foundation, but two local Food Cupboards, EEC and Church of the Brethren have had requests for children books from families they are serving. This year WELCA from Grace will be sponsoring the book drive, “BOOKS FOR BABIES,” from April 9th to May 12th. We are collecting new and gently used books for all ages of children and especially cardboard books for babies.

Mitzvah Circle Foundation meets critical needs of individuals and families who are struggling with crisis, poverty, homelessness and serious illness in our local neighborhoods. One of projects they support is Baby Diaper Supply Bag that includes diapers, baby wash, wipes and books. Mitzvah Circle Foundation sends a children’s hardback cardboard book four times a year to the youngest children. They discovered there is only one book for every 300 homes who are living under the poverty line in America. Giving these books to the children in every Baby Diaper Supply Bag gets books into hands of the most vulnerable children. Help promote literacy for our families in the Hatfield Community. If you have any questions, call Barbara Watts at 215-362-6659.

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, 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, Joan Buschman (Kerry Stone's mother), Mabel Hoepfl, Helen Chappie (Liz Bauer's sister), Bonnie and David Torres (friends of Grace).

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), Lewis Brett (Mary Jane Slugg's cousin), Madiafe Sheriff, Dale Moyer.*

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).*

For active military deployed overseas: *Kyle Murphy, Air Force*

EEC Food Cupboard

The long winter is finally coming to an end, however, the long lines at the food cupboard are continuing. There were 10 new families in the past month that signed up for supplemental food and household items. Your ongoing, compassionate, 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, cold cereal, flour, sugar, canned fruit (no applesauce), 100% fruit juice, chunky soup (all flavors)

Household & Personal Care*: shampoo, conditioner, shaving cream, deodorant, & laundry detergent

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: April 4 & 18

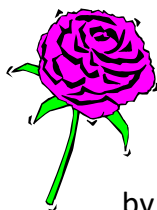
Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: April 11 & 25

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

St. John's "Artist Series" April 2023 Concert "Requiem for the Living"

- Sunday, April 2, 2023
- 4:00 pm - 5:15 pm
- St. John's United Church of Christ; 500 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA, 19446
- Featuring our organist, Kevin Freaney

Soprano soloist Julie Frey and musicians from Philadelphia Ballet Orchestra join St. John's Chancel Choir and Friends for a powerful afternoon. Begin Holy Week with Dan Forrest's most famous work which expands the traditional *Requiem* text to all - both living and deceased - on our journey. As always, admission is free for all St. John's Artist Series concerts.



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14th

As Mother's Day approaches, Grace members are invited to honor and remember our mothers by purchasing flowers.

- Pink Carnations honor our mothers and White Carnations remember our mothers who are no longer with us.
- Or you may choose to purchase **silk** sunflowers in honor or memory of our mothers.

The funds from our project will be sent to the ELCA Disaster Response to aid the refugees throughout Eastern Europe due to the continuing crisis in Ukraine. *Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Moldova, Lithuania and the Czech Republic, as well as such ecumenical partners as this Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service, in their humanitarian responses to the crisis created by Russia's war against Ukraine. These partners provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has joined other religious leaders from Europe and around the globe in issuing an interfaith call for peace in the region. (from ELCA website)*

Orders are due by Sunday, May 7th

An order form is included in this newsletter. Please put your order in an envelope marked Mother's Day Carnations. Place in the offering plate or the basket in the narthex. Orders may also be mailed to the church office or placed in the mailbox outside the main entrance to Grace.

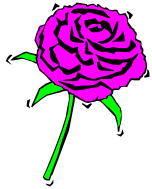


Calling All Yoga Lovers!

On Saturday, April 29, Cathy Farrell and Sanctuary Village invite anyone who wants to support Sanctuary Village – and do some yoga! – to attend an 8-hour "yogathon" here at Grace. Come and experience several kinds of yoga as well as some meditation. Between 9am-5pm, the group will do some gentle, hatha, kundalini, and restorative yoga, in between some short breaks and time for a healthy lunch. Meditation and breathing exercises will be included as well. Just what we need during this

chaotic time! Classes will be led by three certified yoga instructors. The day is totally free for anyone who participates, so this is a great deal! Cathy Farrell and the SV Board will seek sponsors for the day to support all of us doing yoga for Sanctuary Village. Please come and join in on this fun and healthy experience! If interested, contact Cathy at cifarrell@comcast.net.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Souderton is holding a craft fair/flea market on Saturday, May 20, 2023 from 1-5pm. All money raised will be donated for relief efforts in Syria and Turkey following the devastating earthquake. If you know vendors who would like to fill available slots, please contact Alison Laird at awmcelwee@netscape.net or (215) 206-2394.



Mother's Day Carnations
 Single Stem Carnations/Silk Sunflower
 \$2.50 each for carnation/\$5.00 each for silk sunflower
 Orders due Sunday, May 7



Forms may be placed in the offering plate or display basket, mailed to Grace Church or placed in the mailbox outside the main entrance of Grace.

YOUR NAME _____

White Carnations

(in memory of): Number ordered _____ x \$2.50 = _____

Pink Carnations

(in honor of): Number ordered _____ x \$2.50 = _____

Silk Sunflower: Number ordered _____ x \$5.00 = _____

(in honor of or in memory of)

TOTAL = \$ _____
 ___cash ___check

*Checks should be made out to Grace Lutheran Church – **memo carnations***

Flowers may be taken home after the worship services on May 14th

PLEASE FILL IN:

In **memory** of: _____

FROM: _____

In **honor** of: _____

FROM: _____

Proceeds benefit the refugees of Ukraine and Eastern Europe

Grace Lutheran Church
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Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator
Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music

Stepping Stones 215.368.2052
Jessica Moran, Director

April 1st Easter Egg Hunt, Crafts & Storytime

April 2nd **Palm Sunday Celebration:**
Procession with palms, festive hymns and
children's donkey walk

April 6th **Maundy Thursday worship with communion (7:30 p.m.)**

April 7th **Church Office and Stepping Stones closed**
Good Friday: The Passion of Christ in story and song
(12 noon and 7:30 p.m.)

April 9th **EASTER SUNDAY**
6:30am Outdoor Sunrise Service on the veranda
8:00am Indoor festive worship
10:30am Indoor festive worship

April 29th 8:00am-5:00pm Yogathon



View our website by scanning this code:



Grace Lutheran Church
40 N. Main St.
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