



PARISH NEWS

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www.gracelutheranhatfield.org

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

From Pastor Raabe: Don't Worry—Be Peaceful

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6)



I have been reflecting on how words from scripture and liturgy often pop into our heads just when we need them. These are the blessings of the Holy Spirit always at work, quietly behind the scenes, in just the ways that we need.

I am not by nature a worrier, but when concerns arise or when responsibilities pile up, it is a common human response to allow them to begin to overwhelm our thinking. Our view of the world becomes clouded by this lens of worry, making us unable to see clearly the things that we do need to take care of.

We know these verses from Philippians well; they immediately follow the “Rejoice in the Lord” passage that children love to sing about. But as often happens when we return to what we thought we knew, we see it in a new way because we have been changed in the meantime. (We are always being changed; we are new every day.)

What I got from these verses today when I read them was this:

- 1) When you are tempted to worry, DON'T. Instead, convert it into a prayer and lift the concern into God's care, remaining thankful for the abiding presence of our God who is involved in every corner of our lives, because that is how much God loves us.
- 2) Doing this brings peace.

When our family was all together after Christmas, with our son Martin and his wife Bekah here along with Margaret and Greg, we made a nighttime trip to Longwood Gardens for the famous light show. It was even more magical than I had imagined – not a hit-you-in-the-face kind of experience with Christmas lights but an illuminated wonderland with new discoveries at every twist and turn. Warming up in the bookstore afterward, I spied a book of inspirational sayings on the theme of mindfulness. Normally I would pass up that kind of

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thing, figuring it would be kitschy, but this was so attractively illustrated with nature-oriented watercolors that I indulged. I'm glad I did, because I have been enjoying treating myself to a new saying each day.

One of my favorites so far is from St. Francis de Sales, a 16th century Jesuit priest who has been described as "persevering, purposeful, serene, affable, irresistibly charming, and above all, consumed with the love of God" – and whose feast day in the Roman Catholic Church, I just discovered, is the very day on which I am writing this (January 24). The quote the book uses from him goes like this:

*Never be in a hurry: Do everything quietly and in a calm spirit.
Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever,
even if your whole world seems upset.*

This sounds great, but how are we to achieve or recover that inner peace?

Paul's verse from Philippians tells us. As the old hymn says, take it to the Lord in prayer. It's as simple as that. Let God do the worrying, for only God can see the totality of any given situation. Trust God's will to be done in the right way at the right time, and let the peace of that trust be the fuel for the patience that will be required of you.

And may the peace that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus!

Pasta Nanny Raabe



From Our Minister of Music:

When you think of going to church on Sunday morning, what do you look forward to? I enjoy the thought of seeing all of you! It is so nice to have a time to see friendly faces and share a little bit of time together. While my role at Grace is centered on music, it also is centered on you, each of you. Each week I find there are good things happening in your lives and also some struggles. When I hear about the good and the bad, I am also in a space where I trust that God is present and God is with you. I have things in my life that I daily ask God to be there for me or my friends or my family. Sometimes it feels as if only God has the power to change things but I also realize I too, must change me or my thoughts. That is sometimes hard to do.

Many of you have asked me how my parents are doing because not too long ago my mom was put into hospice care. That has been a journey in ways I can't easily navigate but I will say that I know God is present in every day of my mom's life. As a matter of fact, I look back to the many things that remind me of my mom. I can't begin to count the amazing things my mom is to me, but when I see my mom and how she struggles, that she is still my mom and that she is a wonderful gift to me which is always a part of me.

My mom's favorite song since I was a teenager is the song "Memory" from the musical Cats. She always wants me or my youngest son to play that on the piano. The song ends with the words "Look, a new day has begun". That's basically my mom in a nutshell... every day is blessing and every day is a new day. So no matter what each brings, tomorrow will be a new day.

As we move into the New Year many things will begin to unfold. We are close to Lent and Easter, which as you know, is a center point for our faith. The resurrection of Christ is perhaps the reason we do everything in church.. we sing, pray, ponder, hold close the blessings we have, care for each other, gather in sanctuary and share in fellowship, etc.

If you have a favorite song or you know someone who has a song that means the world to them, maybe share that with me or others. I believe music is a connection we have to others. Maybe you have a song in mind

that is very personal or one that has meaning in some way that allows you to feel connected to someone. My wish and hopes are that the memory of ones you love or have loved, are in the spirit of being blessed.

Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
 Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Warmest regards, Kevin



LENTEN WORSHIP

Lent begins each year with the sacred and solemn service of Ash Wednesday. This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 22, with worship that day at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m. A soup lunch will be provided by our WELCA ladies after the noon service. 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. That schedule is still being finalized. We warmly encourage you to attend these as a way of experiencing different worship styles and of course sharing in the good fellowship.

Stepping Stones News

For the month of February, we will be enjoying many special days, celebrations, and events! On February 1st, Chuck the Train Man will be visiting us during transportation week and the kids will get the chance to button-operate a toy train set; we celebrate Groundhog's Day with top hats and our shadows on Thursday, February 2nd and, of course, we are always excited for Valentine's Day! This month will also be Ashes to Go for our families provided by Grace Lutheran Church and, as a reminder, Stepping Stones is closed on February 20th for President's Day. We are also looking forward to our favorite day, Pretzel Day on the 10th, and Animal Print Day on the 24th! Be sure to check in with us on social media to see what else we're up to!

-- Jessica Moran, Director, Stepping Stones

February Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Crucifer	Coffee Hour
02/05/23 8:00 am	J. Detweiler	B. Schmidt	P.Schmidt	Usher	P.Schmidt & D. Ball	N/A	Bruce Schmidt
10:30 am is (Scout Sunday)	M.J. Moyer & B. Hess	K. Stawasz	Pack 510 Scouts	Pack 510 Scouts	Pack 510 Scouts		

02/12/23 8:00 am	N/A	N/A	D. Kunkle	Usher	D. Kunkle & R. Smyrl	N/A	Kay Stone
10:30 am			B. Reilly	Usher	K. Stone & K. Deussing		
02/19/23 Transfiguration of our Lord 8:00 am	J. Detweiler	K. Seiler	K. Seiler	Usher	K. Seiler & D. Capanear	N/A	Diane Ball
10:30 am	M.J. Moyer & B. Hess	J. Kaler	J. Kaler	L. Kaler	C. & P. MacDonald		
02/22/23 Ash Wednesday 12:00 pm 7:30 pm	B. Hess & M.J. Moyer E. Woltmann & T. Sarm	B. Hess F. Stone	TBD F. Stone	Usher Usher	TBD K. Stone & K. Deussing		B. Hess
02/26/23 1 st Sunday In Lent							
8:00 am	J. Detweiler	B. Schmidt	P. Schmidt	Usher	P. Schmidt & D. Kunkle	N/A	Don Capanear
10:30 am	M.J. Moyer & B. Hess	B. Hess	L. Renick	J. Tula	Slugg Family		

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

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

February 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 from 8am-7pm.
- Yoga every Wednesday at 6:15 pm.
- Choir every Sunday at 9:30 am.

Wed Feb. 1, 2023 10:00am WELCA
 2:00pm Choir

Sat Feb. 4, 2023 6:00-11:00pm North Penn Theater Trivia Night (trivia starts at 7:00 pm)

Sun Feb. 5, 2023 8:00am Worship/Communion
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship/Communion—SCOUT Sunday

Tues Feb. 7, 2023 7:00pm Stitches

	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
Wed Feb. 8, 2023	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Committee Mtg. via Zoom
Sun Feb. 12, 2023	8:00am	Worship
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship
Tues Feb. 14, 2023		Happy Valentines Day !!
Sun Feb. 19, 2023	8:00am	Worship/Communion—Transfiguration of Our Lord
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship/Communion
Mon Feb. 20, 2023		Stepping Stones Closed / President's Day
Tue Feb. 21, 2023	7:00pm	Council Meeting in person, Zoom option
Wed Feb. 22, 2023	12:00 noon	Ash Wednesday Service
	6:45pm	Choir Rehearsal
	7:30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Sun Feb. 26, 2023	8:00am	Worship—First Sunday in Lent & Rice Bowl Project begins
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship
Tues Feb. 28, 2023	6:30pm	INReach Meeting

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

- Thanks to everyone who gave me Christmas cards, and phone calls to wish me a Happy New Year. I wish everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year. -- Kitty Heckler
- I want to thank everyone for the generosity of the cards, cookies, and candy. Grace Lutheran is so special. Thank you. -- Nancy Sellers
- 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 all ministry team leaders and others who contributed good news and great stories to the 2022 Annual Report.
- To all those who participated in the Festival of Lessons and Carols for Epiphany on January 8, especially Kevin and our choir, and all who helped with the hospitality afterward.
- 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.



Thank You

Annual Meeting news

Congratulations to Kathy Stawasz, our 2022 recipient of the Gift of Time, awarded at the Annual Meeting on January 29. Kathy is an indispensable member of the Worship and Music Committee, overseeing our entire serving schedule (ushers, greeters, communion servers), as well as the weekly altar flowers and special floral arrangements at Christmas and Easter. She is also head organizer of the weekly yoga class, among many other

gifts of time that Kathy gives so freely. Her enthusiasm and fierce determination to be the very best is an inspiration to us all. Thank you, Kathy!

The 2022 Annual Report is available to read or download under the Home menu of our website, or we will mail you a copy upon request. The reports are lively and informative and give you a broad window into our life at Grace this past year.

WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

Our Welca meeting will be on February 1st at 10:00 am weather permitting. We will be doing Valentine cards for our Homebound members, please bring some cards with you, thank you. On February 22nd we will be serving soup after the Ash Wednesday 12 p.m. service. If you are able to make some, please do. Everyone please take care, Barb.



Rice Bowl Project begins Sunday, February 26th

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.



Valentine's Day Project

The Giving in Service Team invites you to share in our Valentine's Day Project to support the families of Laurel House.

Laurel House provides shelter, care, and counseling for abused women and children of Montgomery County. The agency prefers **\$25** gift cards for their families. You may give a gift card or if you would like to give cash or a check (payable to Grace Lutheran Church) gift of any amount, we will use your gift to purchase \$25 gift cards. Envelopes for your gift are available in the narthex. If you are unable to attend church, you may place a gift in the mailbox outside the main entrance or send your gift to Grace. Mark your gift for **Laurel House**.

Due date: February 14th.

Please note: Our gift cards are purchased through the Scouts' gift card program. We are supporting BSA Scouting Troops 51 and 511 in our area by purchasing gift cards. Our gift cards will be for Target, Giant, and Walmart.

Why does Laurel House prefer gift cards for their clients? *Gift cards are an empowering means of financial support for families in our shelter, counseling programs, rapid rehousing, and transitional housing. Gift cards give parents the ability to buy gifts for their children, as well as other essential, basic needs.* (from the Laurel House Website)

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), 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), Sandra and Daniel Ellis-Killian, Angelina Mascaro.

For all who grieve, including the family and friends of: Ron Thomsen and Lewis Parry *(friends of Kay & Frank Stone), Ruth McMahon (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

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.

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.

Thank you for your help!

If the weather out there is frightful...

It is unlikely that we would cancel church services for a weather-related reason, as Pastor Raabe will make every effort to get to church. However, if extreme weather does force us to cancel, you will receive an email notification or – as with the Welcome Center -- you may call the church to hear an outgoing voicemail message to that effect. In all weather, please use your very best judgment about whether to get on the roads. Your well-being is our Number One concern.



EEC Food Cupboard

A recap of 2022 from Janet Hague: *Emmanuel's food cupboard ministry continued strong in 2022; we distributed over 54,000 lbs. (27 tons!) of food, with 857 "household visits" for the year. Of the people we serve, 33% are children and 16% are seniors. We average 50-60 "unduplicated" household visits each month with an average size of 3-4 persons. There were 127 different families who came at least once during the year, a 25% increase over 2021.*

Thank you for everything you did to bring relief to such a large number of neighbors in our community.

Below, please find the most recent pantry shortages:

Food: ketchup, mustard, mayonnaise, salad dressing, pancake mix

Household & Personal Care*: laundry detergent, 13 gallon trash bags, shampoo, conditioner

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: February 7 & 21

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: February 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

Celebrating our 35th Production

Laymen Playmen Theatre

COMMUNITY THEATRE with a COMMUNITY MISSION

Proudly Present



Friday	Feb. 10	7:30 PM
Saturday	Feb. 11	2:00 PM
		& 7:30 PM
Sunday	Feb. 12	2:00 PM
Friday	Feb. 17	7:30 PM
Saturday	Feb. 18	2:00 PM
		& 7:30 PM
Sunday	Feb. 19	2:00 PM

TICKETS

Adults	\$15.00
Seniors (65+)	\$10.00
Students (6 to 18)	\$10.00
Children (5 & under)	\$5.00

Group discounts &
Gift Certificates available

www.laymenplaymen.org
215 - 368 - 9484

**All performances at Lansdale United Methodist Church
300 N Broad St. Lansdale PA 19446**

BYE BYE BIRDIE
Music - Charles Strouse Lyrics - Lee Adams Based on Book by - Michael Stewart
Concord Theatricals Corp, 250 W. 57th Street, 6th Floor, New York, NY 10107-0102
Concord Theatricals Ltd, Aldwych House, 71-91 Aldwych, London WC2B 4HN

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**Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator
Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music**

**Stepping Stones 215.368.2052
Jessica Moran, Director**

February 4th

**North Penn Theater
Trivia Night**

February 5th

10:30 Worship—Scout Sunday

February 14th

Happy Valentines Day !!

February 19th

Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 20th

Happy Presidents' Day!

February 22nd

**Ash Wednesday –
Service at Noon and 7:30 pm**

February 26th

**First Sunday in Lent &
Rice Bowl Project begins**



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