



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

May 2023

Sing With All the People of God

And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn....



Quick – how do you know these words?

That’s right, from church. They stand at the climax of what we call the “Proper Preface” for the Easter season —“proper” meaning the words specially appointed for that time of the year. For me, to be sharing these words with you in these weeks of Easter is one of the two high points of our liturgy. They inspire us to envision Christ on the throne and to lift our voices into the celestial choirs that continually praise his great victory, as we then launch into “Holy, holy, holy Lord....”

The other high point is the singing of the Hymn of Praise, which also calls us into that same celestial choir:

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

“This is the Feast” by Richard Hillert has been adored by congregations around the globe since it was first introduced in 1975. It went on to be included as a centerpiece of Setting One in our “old green book” and Setting Three in our newer “cranberry” hymnal, as well as in nearly four dozen worship books of other denominations, including Catholics, Episcopalians, Moravians, Presbyterians, and Methodists. More than any other regular component of Christian worship, this is a song that truly unites us.

What makes this setting so powerful? For our children when they were small, it was the jubilation of the music. They loved the “Victory” song, as they called it. Even though they were too young to follow the music, they looked up from their Cheerios at just the right time to always shout out that one word, “VIC-tor-y!”

For me, it is the vivid imagery of John W. Arthur’s text, which draws on Revelation 5:12-13 and 19:5-9, and the way that Richard Hillert’s music joyfully lifts us into that chorus of praise. As we sing, we find ourselves circling the throne of the Lamb along with the heavenly choirs and all the saints who have ever lived. The Book of Revelation concludes with heaven and earth meeting in the middle; in this canticle we find ourselves at that place, united in the eternal love of God together with all these voices as we honor Christ’s victory over death.

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Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain.... We lift our faces to the throne, acknowledging Jesus as the Lamb “whose blood set us free to be people of God.” We are free to be just as God created us.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength.... In Christ’s great victory over sin, death, and the devil, we celebrate that all honor, blessing, and glory now reside in him.

Sing with all the people of God.... We are called to join in the hymn of all creation. Imagine our voices raised along with the song of the stars, planets, and galaxies circling around the throne in his honor. And remember what Jesus said in Luke 19—if we do not join the song of praise, the rocks will cry out in protest.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.... Of that, we are witnesses!

If there is any purpose to liturgical worship, it is this. As we marvel once again at waves of spring color and fragrance that surround us in God’s creation, I implore you to share your presence in church every Sunday to be dazzled all over again by this eternal song, which calls us to make the conclusion of God’s great work our own reality. Each time we glimpse it, our hope is renewed for all the daily tasks and challenges that face us. God only knows that we need all the hope we can get.

Yours in the risen Christ,

Pastor Nancy Raabe



From Our Minister of Music:

My first Sunday at Grace was as a substitute organist on August 18th, 2019 but I officially became the Interim Minister of Music on September 8th of that year. Grace soon turned into my home base as I was offered and accepted the regular position in early 2020. The most prominent thought in my head was how much Grace reminded me of some things I remembered from my home church. Grace was down to earth and low key. There was a sense of family with a small home-town feeling. Pastor Peterman told me she knew I would love being at Grace and that I had the space to dream about music for Grace and to discover and plan a path moving forward. Sometimes I wish I could sit with you in the congregation but you know my place is on the piano and organ bench. Toward the middle of our worship, I think my most enjoyable time is sharing a sign of peace with you. It is a wonderful thing to share a smile and a peace greeting. Did you know that the sign of peace has been part of the church for many centuries? It was often referred to as the "kiss of peace" and was symbolic in preparation to receive Holy Communion. It was and is a genuine and caring gesture toward thy neighbor, through Christ.

I've never been much of a historian minded person, but I do value where I come from and I care about the things that have been done to make it possible for the existence of my life, my family, my friends and the world. I think back to the world's history about struggles that were very real for people and how they fought to protect, defend and preserve. The times that we live in are radically different and seemingly growing in many different directions. I think that no matter what happens, we can't determine what God's plan is precisely, but I do believe in the power of prayer, the promise of hope, the gift of love, and the knowledge that Christ is Risen. Alleluia!

In the Easter season, our hymns and songs focus on resurrection and Christ as the hope of the world. I hope that you will experience a nice blend of music in the coming months as I have set a plan for some meaningful and heart-felt music along with a strong sense of familiar tunes as well. As always, I enjoy hearing your feedback and interests in music. Whatever reasons you may have for going to church to pray, sing, be a part of fellowship etc., I would imagine they're similar to mine. You are my home for sharing in the spirit of God. In the goodness of Grace and fellowship, peace be with all of you.

Kevin

May Serving Schedule

| Date | Altar Guild | Communion Assistant | Lector | Acolyte | Ushers | Coffee Hour |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|---|-------------|
| 05/07/23 8:00 am 10:30 am | J. Swartz E. Woltmann | B. Schmidt B. Hess | P. Schmidt T. Sarm | Usher L. Kaler | R. Smyrl & D. Capanear K. Stone & K. Heacock | B. Schmidt |
| 05/14/23 8:00 am 10:30 am | N/A N/A | N/A N/A | The Seilers R. Badman | Usher E. Krout | The Seilers Carol & Paul MacDonald | K. Stone |
| 05/21/23 8:00 am 10:30 am | J. Swartz E. Woltmann | B. Schmidt C. MacDonald | P. Schmidt C. MacDonald | Usher Carol M. | R. Smyrl & D. Capanear K. Stone & K. Stawasz | D. Ball |
| 05/28/23 Pentecost 9:15 am | E. Woltmann | K. Seiler | J. Tula | C. Tula | C. Tula & K. Seiler | D. Capanear |

Council Offering/Lock-up for May is 8:00 am—Dave Kunkel; 10:30 am—Jaime Snyder
Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm



Ascension Worship with the churches of the Indian Valley Cluster

Join our five congregations on **Thursday, May 18** at Christ Lutheran in Harleysville, 2211 Mainland Rd., for a covered dish picnic at 6 p.m. followed by festive worship from around the globe “In All Times and Places” at 7 p.m. Bring a covered dish to share; freshly grilled hot dogs will also be served. Singers, talk to Kevin about the joint choir.

Christ, by a road before untrod / ascends unto the throne of God. Alleluia!



May Calendar

- The Jesus Love Church (formerly Central Philadelphia) will be worshipping on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
- Tues. are Bread Drop Sandwich Days. The coolers will be out from 8am-7pm.
- Yoga every Wednesday at 6:15 pm.

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|---|
| Mon May 1, 2023 | 7:00pm | Giving in Service Meeting |
| Tues May 2, 2023 | 7:00pm | Stitchers |
| Wed May 3, 2023 | 10:00am | WELCA |
| Thurs May 4, 2023 | 7:00pm | Giving to God Meeting |
| Sun May 7, 2023 | 8:00am | Worship/Communion |
| | 9:15am | Sunday School |
| | 10:30am | Worship/Communion |
| Tues May 9, 2023 | 7:00pm | Worship & Music Team Meeting |
| | 7:00pm | Property Team Meeting |
| Wed May 10, 2023 | 2:00pm | Choir Rehearsal |
| Sun May 14, 2023 | 8:00am | Worship – Happy Mother’s Day ! |
| | 9:15am | Sunday School |
| | 10:30am | Worship |
| Tues May 16, 2023 | 7:00pm | Council Meeting in person, Zoom option |
| Thurs May 18, 2023 | 6:30pm | Ascension Service with the churches of the Indian Valley Cluster at Christ Lutheran Church in Harleysville |
| Sun May 21, 2023 | 8:00am | Worship/Communion |
| | 9:15am | Sunday School |
| | 10:30am | Worship/Communion |
| Mon May 22, 2023 | 7:00pm | Communication Team Meeting |
| Tues May 23, 2023 | 6:30pm | INReach Meeting |
| Sun May 28, 2023 | | Pentecost --- 1st Sunday with Summer worship schedule |
| | 9:15am | Worship |
| | | NO Sunday School |
| Mon May 29, 2023 | | Memorial Day |
| | | Church Office & Stepping Stones Closed |

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

- To our Property Team for the diligent and demanding work of overseeing the renovation of 30 N. Main and the cleanliness and good functioning of our building.
- To the “Retirement Team” that oversaw the luncheon following Mabel Hoepfl’s funeral, and to all who help arrange for our coffee hour and special fellowship times.
- To our WELCA ladies and INReach team for all the special ways they let our members know they are remembered and cared for.
- To Kevin, the choir, and the handbell and youth chime ringers whose contributions made our Easter worship so joyful.



Congratulations again to Bread Drop, founded three years ago by Lou Farrell, and to the E-Meal program at Emmanuel Lutheran in Souderton with which Bread Drop is now joined. A few facts and figures:

Total meals "handed up" by E-Meal since 3/19/2020: 371,000
Average monthly E-Meal distributions: 10,027
Total sandwiches delivered by Bread Drop since 4/16/2020: 328,148
Average Bread Drop monthly deliveries: 9115
Additional supplies delivered:



Bottled water, snack bags, fresh fruit, produce, bread, milk, yogurt, granola bars, cookies, diapers, baby formula, razors, hygiene kits, clothing, socks, coats, scarves, knit hats, gloves, handwarmers, sneakers, shoes, boots, foul weather gear, blankets, sleeping bags, sleeping mats, Easter bags, Christmas bags

Total volunteers: 270
Funding: under \$200,000 total
Counties Served: Montgomery, Bucks, Delaware, Berks, Philadelphia

Bread Drop franchisees: Ridley Park, PA, serving Chester, PA; Cherry Hill, NJ serving Camden, NJ; Vineland, NJ, serving Vineland, NJ.

Want to get involved? More hands are always needed! Talk to Lou or Pastor Raabe.



WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

Ladies, our next meeting will be May 3rd at 10am. This month we need to discuss a few items that we need to go over. Also, we decided to go out for a special lunch to a restaurant that has been around for many, many years, the Keystone restaurant which soon will be closing. This is very sad for most of us. I hope you can be at this meeting. Barb

Stepping Stones News

Spring sure came in like a lion this year and we're ready to see Mr. Sun! Stepping Stones will be celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week during the week of 5/8 so if you'd like to show our teachers some love, let me know! We are also looking forward to Mother's Day Tea on 5/12 and can't wait for our spirit days like Pretzel Day, 90's Throwback Day, and Tie-Dye Day! Stepping Stones will be closed on 5/29 for Memorial Day. Be sure to follow us on Facebook so you can stay up to date with our daily postings....we're always up to something!

-- Jessica Moran, Director, Stepping Stones

SUMMER YOUTH SERVICE CAMP 2023: June 26-29, for youth 4th grade through high school

St. Paul's Telford, Emmanuel Souderton and Grace are joining once again for three days of service projects from 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. plus a fourth "fun" day to honor all the hard work we will have done. Grace's day is June 26! What projects do you have in mind we could do around the church or Hatfield community? Attendance at all days is strongly encouraged. Sign up at this link or talk to Pastor Raabe:

<https://bit.ly/41HV0ny>



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.

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.

Lutheran Night at the Phillies, May 20: Join the crowd for the Phillies vs. Chicago Cubs game at 4:05 PM on Saturday, May 20. To order tickets: www.phillies.com/lutheran use code: LUTHERAN or if tickets sold out in that section call (215) 463-5000 and mention Lutheran Night at the Phillies. Proceeds from each ticket sold through this offer will benefit SEPA Synod Youth Programs. Bus transportation to the Phillies game is available! It is an additional \$25 per person. One bus will leave at 1:45 PM from St. Luke's, Ferndale, and the other will leave at 1:45 PM from Little Zion. To sign up for the "northern" bus, please email evangel@durhamlutheran.org. To sign up for the "southern" bus, please email churchoffice@standrewsperkasie.org

Rice Bowl 2023

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 **\$2,935** as of Sunday, April 9th. 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.*

Summer Wednesday Evening Picnics



Always good food and great fellowship!!

If you would like to host one of our picnics, please contact Kay Stone. 267-218-2124 or kaystone@comcast.net

Scrap Metal Recycling at St. Paul's Telford: Saturday, May 13 from 8 a.m. – 12 noon

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 107 W. Lincoln in Telford, invites you to drop off the following items free of charge:

- All scrap metal including steel, iron, brass, copper, aluminum
- Products such as lawn mowers, benches, bicycles, washers, dryers, water heaters, swing sets, car batteries, radiators, insulated ware, Christmas/holiday light sets
- Room air conditioners and dehumidifiers



Parking is behind the church. There is no charge, so take advantage of this wonderful opportunity offered to us by one of our Indian Valley Cluster congregations.

Also coming up at St. Paul's, on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at 7:00 pm: **Presentation on Henry Muhlenberg and the Lutheran Church in Colonial Pennsylvania.** Lisa Minardi, executive director of the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia and Historic Trappe, will give a presentation on the history of the Lutheran church in colonial Pennsylvania, including its longtime leader, Henry Muhlenberg. She will share images of colonial Lutheran churches and artifacts as well as the Muhlenberg family's houses in Trappe. Minardi is the executive director of the Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia and Historic Trappe.



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, Nancy Dustman (Joyce Salter's sister).



In Current Need of Prayers: Cassi Lambert, Kristopher Yoder, Lisa Kane, Vickie West, Sandy Klinger, Debbie Zuech-Smyrl, Dean Moore, 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), Jan Madigan (Sue Wieland's niece), John Renick, Lou Farrell, Joan Wright & Alicia Hollingsworth (friends of Linda Renick), Diane Pierson, Robert Naragon (friend of Frank & Kay Stone), Joanne Moyer, Sheran Shenk (friend of Bruce & Peggy Schmidt), the family of Liz Eliff and the Laymen Playmen family, Joan Buschman (Kerry Stone's mother), Helen Chappie (Liz Bauer's sister), Bonnie and David Torres and their children (friends of Grace), Wendy

Dustman (Joyce Salter's niece, & her friend, Tracey Lapota), Allie Moyer (Mary Jane Moyer's granddaughter), Angelina Mascaro, Bob Yoder.

For all who grieve, including the family & friends of: 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, Mabel Hoepfl, Jim Finnemeyer.

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

A message from Janet Hague: Since January, we've seen an average of 65 different families per month. With SNAP benefits returning to pre-pandemic levels, we expect we'll continue to see more new registrants. So far in 2023, 20 new families have come to us for help in feeding their families. We appreciate everything you do; your faithful giving is a huge blessing!

Below, please find the most recent pantry shortages:

Food: any type of boxed pasta (including lasagna), pasta sauce, cold cereal, rolled oats, canned chickpeas (garbanzo beans), WHOLE potatoes, tuna in OIL, jelly

Household & Personal Care*: 13-gallon kitchen trash bags, laundry detergent, body wash

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: May 2, 16, 30

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: May 9 & 23

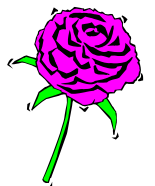
The food cupboard is open to all Hatfield borough residents, so please reach out if you, or someone you know, would benefit from receiving supplemental food/household items. Messages for Janet Hague can be left at 215-855-2540; foodcupboard@yahoo.com.

You can also call/email Carol MacDonald @215-872-0472; macdonald125@comcast.net

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.

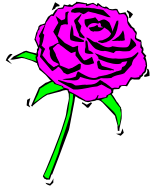


The funds from our project will be sent to the ELCA Disaster Response to aid the refugees throughout Eastern Europe due to the continuing crisis in Ukraine. *Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying our companions in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Moldova, Lithuania and the Czech Republic, 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.*

Orders are due by Sunday, May 7th

An order form is included below. 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.

Questions? Contact Kay Stone 267-218-2124 or kaystone@comcast.net



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

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Jessica Moran, Director

May 14th Happy Mother's Day !

May 18th Ascension Service with the churches of the
Indian Valley Cluster at Christ Lutheran
Church in Harleysville

May 28th Pentecost --- 1st Sunday with Summer worship schedule
9:15am Worship
NO Sunday School

May 29th Memorial Day
Church Office & Stepping Stones Closed



View our website by scanning this code:

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40 N. Main St.
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