



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

June 2023

FAITH AND THE CHURCH THROUGH ALL SEASONS



As I write this, it is one of those rare late spring mornings in which the sky is bright blue, the humidity low, and the sunshine is sparkling off the new leaves and illuminating the glorious colors of late spring. The birds are dancing around the feeders, and I have the rare chance to sit for a few minutes and take it all in.

It is tempting to want to thank God especially for the beauty of this day. But should we not offer our thanks and praise to God for every day, in all kinds of weather? Against all odds in the dark reaches of the universe, God has given us this breathtakingly beautiful planet for our habitation and crafted perfect life systems to support it. We have all seen stunning photos from space of our blue-green planet; compare those to the barren landscapes of Mars and Moon or the gaseous clouds enveloping other planets in our solar system, or to exploding stars whose evidence reaches us hundreds of years after they take place (a reminder that to gaze into the night sky is to look into the past; even the light from Sirius, the brightest star, takes 9 years to reach us).

How, then, can we not thank God for this with every breath we take? Scripture tells us that the entire breadth of creation shares equally with human beings in actively praising God. "Let the sea roar, and all that fills it," we sing in Psalm 96, "let the field exult, and everything in it." In Psalm 98, "Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing together with joy." In Isaiah 55 the trees clap their hands and the mountains and hills "burst into song." And in Isaiah 35, "the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing." What a symphony is going on all around us!

So it is with the church. The Holy Spirit, given to us at that first Pentecost, gave birth to the church as our primary means of thanks and praise to God. It is here that our faith is deepened, and our thanksgiving made bolder by voices joined together in confession, song and prayer. It is here that God's Word is received and preached. It is here that we discover the Gospel's connection with our daily lives. As Paul tells us in Romans 10:17, "Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ."

And it is here that we come to dwell in Christ and he in us. "Abide in me as I abide in you," Jesus urges us in John 15. So, I am pleading with you: Come to church. Come back to church! We have a place just for you.

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Please note that we have returned to one Sunday service at 9:15 a.m. through Labor Day.	

God's indwelling is best experienced in fellowship. Together, we come to know Jesus, dig deep into the truth of God's Word, and find that new meanings are opened in our midst.

This summer I want to encourage you not only to return to church, but to gather in one or more of these groups for prayer, study, and conversation:

- Book study, **Praying God's Word: Breaking Free from Spiritual Strongholds** by Beth Moore. What is a stronghold? From 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, it is "every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God" – anything that keeps us from living fully and freely, anything that compels us to believe it is bigger and better than God, anything that consumes our energy and keeps us from the abundant life that Christ offers. We will meet in the Wagner House on the **last Sundays at 7 p.m. on June 25, July 30, and August 27**, with light refreshments. Books will be available for \$7 in the office or on Sundays at church starting June 18, or for no charge if the cost is an obstacle. We'll be looking only at selected chapters this summer but can add more if the group wants to continue into the fall.
- **Compline and Contemplative Prayer: Lectio Divina, Examen, the Jesus Prayer.** Let's gather by candlelight around the font on **fourth Thursdays, at 8 p.m., June 22, July 27, and August 24** to let the beautiful night service of Compline lead us into one of these time-honored prayer practices.
- **Coffee Hour each Sunday.** You are always invited to gather on the veranda (in good weather) or inside Fellowship Hall for food and conversation, a great way to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

For the two groups, please see the signup sheets on the Community bulletin board in the narthex, or simply let me know if you're interested.

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

Pastor Nancy Raabe



From Our Minister of Music:

Praise the Lord!

I want to offer a brief reflection on the past months as we end near our liturgical celebration of Easter. We start fresh every September "kickoff" and head toward the major celebrations such as Reformation, All Saints, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week and Easter. All of those times call us together, but nothing is possible without the help of many people and their time.

I'm forever grateful for the amount of energy given to put together everything for worship and all that surrounds us as a church family. Various activities and gatherings that require much time and organization just to prepare for them, but also the energy it takes to keep the ball rolling. The past year has really been enjoyable because I've enjoyed working with our choir, cantors and various musicians throughout the year. We've had the kids involved in ways that give them a little ownership of being part of worship and music. There are bells and chimes that we hear, and we have guitars and flutes and drums and other musical additives. All of these form a cluster of the musical environment.

To each one of our music makers, I say thank you! Thank you for everything!

Looking to the summer months, I hope to see many of you and reminisce a bit at our church picnics. Let's all have a wonderful and relaxing summer!

PSALM 150

*Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty heavens.
Praise him for his acts of power;
praise him for his surpassing greatness.
Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet,
praise him with the harp and lyre.
Praise him with timbrel and dancing,
praise him with the strings and pipe,
Praise him with the clash of cymbals,
praise him with resounding cymbals.
Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.*

Kevin

June Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
06/04/23 Holy Trinity 9:15 am	S. Wieland & D. Ball	B. Hess	B. Krout	E. Krout	J. Krout & K. Deussing	Kay Stone
06/11/23 Youth Sunday 9:15 am	N/A	N/A	N/A	Usher	R. Smyrl & D. Capanear	Diane Ball
06/18/23 9:15 am	S. Wieland & D. Ball	C. MacDonald	Carol MacDonald	Usher	R. Smyrl & B. Schmidt	Carol MacDonald
06/25/23 9:15 am	N/A	N/A	R. Reilly	Usher	D. Ball & R. Smyrl	Don Capanear

Council Offering/Lock-up for June is Dave Kunkel and Diane Ball.

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

June Calendar

- The Jesus Love Church (formerly Central Philadelphia) will be worshipping on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Friday night worship at 8:00 pm.
- Tues. are Bread Drop Sandwich Days. The coolers will be out from 8am-7pm.
- Yoga every Wednesday at 6:15 p.m. through June 28.

Thurs June 1, 2023	Noon	Choir Picnic
Sun June 4, 2023	9:15am	Holy Trinity Worship/Communion with four baptisms
Tues June 6, 2023	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed June 7, 2023	11:00am	WELCA – Last meeting for the season/Picnic
Sun June 11, 2023	9:15am	Youth Sunday Worship
Tues June 13, 2023	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Sat June 17, 2023	4:00pm	“Easy listening music” and light refreshments after the Borough 125 th Anniversary Celebration
Sun June 18, 2023	9:15am	Happy Father’s Day Worship/Communion
Mon June 19, 2023		Stepping Stones Closed for Juneteenth Holiday
Tues June 20, 2023	7:00pm	Council Meeting in person with Zoom option
Sun June 25, 2023	9:15am	Worship with bluegrass band, “Without a Paddle”
Mon June 26, 2023	9:30-4:00	Summer Youth Service Camp at Grace
Tues June 27, 2023	6:30pm	INReach
Wed June 28, 2023	6:30pm	1 st Summer Picnic – location is the church

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

- To our Property Team for following the renovation of 30 N. Main into the home stretch and expertly managing all aspects of the process.
- To Kevin and our Sunday School teachers and kids for their work in preparing for the June 11 youth-led service. Don’t miss it!
- To Kevin for arranging for the participation of the bluegrass band “Without a Paddle” in worship here on June 25. Don’t miss that, either!
- To our WELCA ladies for overseeing the amazingly successful “Books for Babies” drive – over 850 were donated (see below).
- To our Altar Guild for all the paraments they had to change as we went from May into June –from white to red to white and finally to green for the duration of Pentecost (well, until Reformation Day).
- To Kevin and our choir members who participated in the Ascension service May 18 at Christ Lutheran Harleysville. It was good to have Grace so well represented.
- To our youth and Sunday School’s parents who helped with the “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive for the USPS on May 13 and who have also offered to help with Grace’s Summer Youth Service Camp day on June 26.

WELCA (Women of the ELCA)



The WELCA committee would like to thank the congregation for their donations of books. For the "Books for Babies" book drive this year we collected 875 books that will be shared with the two food cupboards in Hatfield and also the Mitzvah center. So once again, THANK YOU!! Barbara Watts

Ladies, it's hard to believe that June 7th is our last WELCA meeting for this season and Joyce and Tom Salter graciously invited us to their house for our annual picnic. Please bring a side dish or a dessert, the time is 11am. I hope everyone will be able to come. Take care and stay healthy, Barb

Stepping Stones News

June is fast upon us, and we are loving the weather here at Stepping Stones! Congratulations to the future class of 2036 as our Perky Penguins get ready to graduate on 6/14! We will also be enjoying Pretzels with Pop on the 16th for Father's Day! Stepping Stones will be closed for Juneteenth on 6/19 and, of course, we are loaded up with spirit days like Shades Day, Crazy Hair Day, and Tropical Dress Up Day, so be sure to check in with us often to see what we're up to!

-- 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/41HVOny>



Thank you to our members who purchased **Mother's Day** Carnations and Sunflowers. The funds from our project will be sent to the ELCA Disaster Response to aid the refugees throughout Eastern Europe and Ukraine. The *Giving In Service Team*



Summer Wednesday Evening Picnics

Grace Summer Picnics will be held in June, July and August!

Dinner will be served at **6:30 pm**. Bring your favorite **picnic dish** to share and a lawn chair or blanket.

If you have a favorite **outdoor game** to share, bring it too. *Event is rain or shine!!*

Dates for our picnics: June 28 (at Grace) July 19th August 2nd and 16th

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

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

Janet Hague and her team are continuing to sort through the generous donations that came in from Scouting for Food in May. These donations are extremely helpful in feeding the MANY people that continue to show up each month for resources at the food cupboard. Thank you to Pastor Raabe, along with Grace youth and parents, for moving donations from the Post Office (where postal workers kindly delivered all the donations they picked up from residents) to the EEC. Many thanks to all of you who continue to share your blessings with our Hatfield neighbors! Below, please find the most recent pantry shortages:

Food: any type of boxed pasta (including lasagna), spaghetti sauce, rolled oats, canned fruit, canned WHOLE potatoes, canned soup (except chicken noodle), rolled oats, 100% fruit juice

Household & Personal Care*: laundry detergent, paper towels, men's & women's razors & shave 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: June 6 & 20

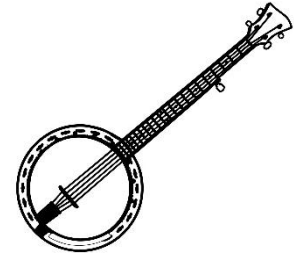
Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: June 13 & 27

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.



Worship events coming up:

- **June 11**, youth-led service while Pastor Raabe is on vacation
- **June 25**, service with bluegrass praise music accompanied by the band "Without a Paddle"



COFFEE HOUR: A Grace Tradition

Now that we are at one service at 9:15 a.m., let's make it our routine to gather after worship on the veranda and enjoy some sun, fresh air, and fellowship.

Make this your new routine: When you come out of the sanctuary, instead of turning left toward the parking lot, head right into fellowship hall and out onto the veranda, where (in good weather) we'll relax after worship and enjoy each other's company as well as coffee and fresh-baked treats.

We also need more helpers to keep this going. If you'd like to prepare the coffee hour, clean up, or contribute fresh-baked items, please see the signup sheet in the narthex for how you can get involved. Lend your distinctive touch to our time together! Our coffee hour volunteers will show you what to do.

THANK YOU!



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Jessica Moran, Director

- June 4th Holy Trinity**
Worship/Communion with four baptisms
- June 11th Youth Sunday**
- June 18th Happy Father's Day**
Worship/Communion
- June 19th Stepping Stones Closed for Juneteenth Holiday**
- June 25th Service with bluegrass praise music accompanied by the**
band "Without a Paddle"
- June 26th Summer Youth Service Camp at Grace**
- June 28th Summer Picnic**



View our website by scanning this code:



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