



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 November 2022

From Pastor Raabe:

The source of our thanksgiving



We've all heard the five words at some point in our lives: "Everything happens for a reason."

An unexpected setback. A debilitating accident. A diagnosis you never thought you'd hear. An illness that wreaks havoc on your life. A sudden death. Dreams that die, hopes that are crushed, relationships that end. Then, those five words, words seemingly simple, uttered without thinking, yet words that can inflict a lifetime of emotional, psychological and spiritual harm:

"Everything happens for a reason."

No. Things do not happen for a reason. Things just happen, and suddenly the whole world is changed as you are swamped by an ocean of grief.

We are not talking the cause, but the purpose. Usually causes can be identified. But there is no *reason for*, or purpose in, all those things that go wrong, big and little, and throw a wrench into the way you had expected your life to unfold.

I remember how this thought swept over me a few years ago as I watched in horror, via live camera, as Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in downtown Milwaukee was consumed by a monstrous fire that reduced the stunning wood-graced sanctuary and its grand historic organ to a heap of blackened rubble. This church, exquisitely built and lovingly cared for over the course of 139 years, was destroyed in half an hour.

The roof was under repair and a hot tool may have caused the fire. But why? Why this church, of all those in the world that were undergoing roof work? There is no reason to be found. I know an organ is technically not

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a living thing, but a photo posted later of the blasted-out case with a few sheared-off pipes hanging bizarrely in mid-air made me weep at this specter of death all over again.

Watch what you say in the wake of any crisis or disaster. When someone utters this insensitivity to those who have suffered catastrophic loss, “Everything happens for a reason,” one of two things is taking place.

First and most likely, the speaker does not want to get involved in the messiness of the person’s grief. It’s so much easier to dismiss it with this vague wave of the hand. However, we are not dealing with mere insensitivity. To dismiss a person’s grief in this way amounts to an act of violence against their humanity. It denies them their right to be human.

Or second, the speaker who utters those five words actually believes that God inflicts pain on people for their own good. The idea is that they will grow through their suffering. This is a misreading of the verse from Romans 5, “Suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character....” But God does not want God’s children to suffer. How could a loving God desire that? And as we heard at the contemplative service on September 28, “Love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.” God does not engineer bad things in our lives to cause us pain. There is no earthly or heavenly reason for bad things happening. What we do know, though, is that God in Christ is there in with us in the midst of our pain—Jesus, who knows human suffering so well, shouldering our loss as his own and carrying us in his arms to the cross, that place of death that is also the entryway into new life. This is the meaning of those great words from Paul in Romans 6:3-5, which are part of our liturgy of the Thanksgiving for Baptism:

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

But first we must go with Jesus to the cross. We must reside there, we must inhabit that place, we must drink in the landscape, we must feel the pain in the depths of our being. This grounds us in the reality of loss, allowing our very human experience of grief to unfold in its own way and on its own timeline. Only then when we have passed through that dark valley can God begin to heal our brokenness with the new life we are promised in Christ, life that is the very foundation of Christian hope. This is the source of our thanksgiving. This is why we sing: “Thanks be to God!”

A blessed Thanksgiving to you all, in Christ’s name.

Pastor Raabe

GRATEFUL
Thankful
& BLESSED

Thanksgiving Eve worship

Please plan to join us here at Grace for our traditional Thanksgiving Eve worship with Heidelberg United Church of Christ on Wednesday, November 23 at 7 p.m. Since we are hosting this year, we would love to have a good turnout! Hear Abraham Lincoln’s Thanksgiving Proclamation and sing some of your favorite hymns. Light refreshments will follow.

From Our Minister of Music

Our organ's dedication service was on Sunday, October 9th and is still in my ears as I recall the sound of trumpet, organ, choir and handbells to enhance our hymn singing. I played 3 different virtual pipe organs that morning and was so excited to have the ease of use doing that with our new organ. If you missed that morning's worship, it can be viewed on YouTube.

As many of you probably know, our church owns a 3 octave set of Bronze Handbells made by the Schulmerich Bell Company, which is a major, nationally known manufacturer located right here in Hatfield, PA! Our set was originally purchased around 1977 and today, the cost of the bells is at least 3 times the original cost. I have taken some time to go over these bells and found most of them have tiny parts that, because of age, are broken and need replaced. These parts are actually not too expensive, but it requires a lot of patience and great care to do the work. I am delighted the replacement parts needed have been acquired. Over the next several weeks I will begin working on all of this. Once this task is complete, our bells will be polished and ready to ring. My hope is to include them as often as possible in some of our hymns and music for worship. Opportunities in music for our young people is also on my mind this Fall. I am planning to set aside some time on Sundays after church for our youth who would like to share in what I'd like to call "Jump into Music" or "JIM". During this time, I will give kids the chance to make music together but also learn tips and tricks about how to make music sound really good and have fun doing it. We will use melody chimes and learn about what makes music come to life. I will also invite kids to bring their musical instruments they may play for school to church. I'm sending out more details to parents via email and to make phone calls to tell families about what I have in mind.

In the meantime, the choir is working on anthems for worship which I know a couple of them will be a big hit once you hear them sing these! We'll start rehearsing Advent and Christmas music soon, too! I'm thinking about a particular French Carol called, "What is This Lovely Fragrance?" This song is a 17th-century French traditional carol about the Nativity of Christ. I'll end by sharing one of the verses:

*What is this Wonder all around us
Filling the air with Music light?
Shepherds! Some magic here hath found us!
Never mine ears knew such delight!
What is this Wonder all around us
Filling the air with Music light!*

Peace on Earth,
Kevin

COMMUNICATION TEAM UPDATES

More on the "new" Grace Notes

The Grace Communication Team hopes you have been enjoying the mobile device-friendly version of Grace Notes. It is usually sent to your email a short time after our regular print/PDF version. (When you open it, please make sure you tell your email program to display the images.) It's the same content as the other, just (we think) more fun to read, and includes live links to take you to wherever you want to go. If you have email and aren't receiving it yet, be sure to let the Grace office or Laura Slugg, Harold Schaefer, Jaime Kaler or Pastor Raabe know, and we'll get you onto the email list. Our hope eventually is to cut down on the number of Grace Notes we are printing, although those are still available when you receive your bulletin. Happy reading!

New livestream equipment coming

Our new system has been ordered and will be installed soon. Spots will be opening up for tech directors for our Sunday service to operate the new camera remotely. Be looking for those announcements.

“STEPPING” INTO THE FALL

We are thankful for the Fall season and are enjoying all of the festivities! Stepping Stones will be celebrating Thanksgiving by welcoming back our Thanksgiving Feast on 11/23 and we couldn't be more excited. Stepping Stones will also be closed on 11/24 and 11/25 in observation of the holiday and then will quickly be getting into the swing of Christmas. We just wanted to take a moment and tell everyone how thankful we are to each person who contributes to our school in any way; from participating on our Facebook page to donating paper towel rolls, or even just waving at us and the kids as you stop by; we're so grateful for every person who makes Stepping Stones the family it is. Blessings.

-- Jessica Moran, Director, Stepping Stones



YOGA (Hatha) CLASS Back by Popular Demand

Every Wednesday, September 14, 2022 – December 14, 2022 (no class 11/23/22)

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 an ability to focus on breath and awareness.



TIME: 6:15-7:15 pm

WHERE: Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 40 N. Main Street, Hatfield, PA (outside weather permitting)

COST: \$7/class (Make checks payable to: Grace Lutheran Church; all profits to go Sanctuary Village.

WHO: Ages 18 and up

What is needed: Exercise mat (let me know if you need one). Invite a friend or family member (men too). Everyone is welcome. Contact Kathy Stawasz at [215-760-6297](tel:215-760-6297) with any questions.

Would you like to save a tree and receive Parish News by email? Contact our Office Administrator Lynn Fasick and she will put you on the list!



Our **Annual Coat Drive** for the two food cupboards and Stepping Stones took on a new direction this year. After talking with Pastor Clay Moyer of Church of the Brethren, we discovered the cost of coats had increased significantly and the number of children who needed coats in the Hatfield Community also increased. The food cupboards are experiencing more families than ever and the number of children needing coats in our Stepping Stones family has also increased.



As a result, we suggested giving the food cupboard families gift cards and giving Stepping Stones families the coats you have donated. We can't thank you enough for your continued support helping those who need a hand up and not a hand out. With the economy so volatile, your coat donations will go far to keep our children warm this winter.

Many thanks for your continued support. God Bless You All. H3C and MC Reilly

November Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Crucifier	Ushers	Coffee Hour
11/06/22 All Saints 8:00 am 10:30 am	L. Kratz Emily Woltmann	B. Schmidt Kathy Stawasz	TBD Frank Stone	Usher Usher	N/A N/A	R. Smyrl Carol MacDonald	Kay Stone
11/13/22 8:00 am 10:30 am	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	Walters Richard Badman	Walters TBD	N/A N/A	Walters TBD	D. Ball
11/20/22 Christ the King 8:00 am 10:30 am	L.Kratz Emily Woltmann	Seilers K.Stawasz	Seilers Beth Krout	Usher Elijah Krout	N/A N/A	D.Capanear J.Krout & K. Deussing	Kay Stone
11/23/22 Thanksgiving Eve 7:30 pm			TBD			TBD	
11/27/22 1st Sunday of Advent 8:00 am 10:30 am	L. Kratz Emily Woltmann	B.Schmidt Barb Hess	TBD Linda Renick	Usher TBD	N/A N/A	TBD TBD	Diane Ball

Council Offering/Lock-up for November: Jaime Kaler & Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

November 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.
- Bible Study via Zoom every Wednesday at Noon.

Tue Nov. 1, 2022	7:00pm	Laymen Playmen Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed Nov. 2, 2022	10:00am	WELCA
Thurs Nov. 3, 2022	7:00pm	Laymen Playmen Rehearsal
Sun Nov. 6, 2022	8:00am	Worship/Communion – All Saints Sunday
	9:15am	Sunday School
	9:15am	Worship Servers Thank you breakfast
	9:30am	Choir
	10:30am	Worship/Communion
Mon Nov. 7, 2022	7:00pm	Giving in Service Meeting
Tue Nov. 8, 2022	7:00pm	Laymen Playmen Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
Wed Nov. 9, 2022	1:00pm	Choir
Thurs Nov. 10, 2022	7:00pm	Laymen Playmen Rehearsal
Sun Nov. 13, 2022	8:00am	Worship
	9:15am	Sunday School
	9:30am	Choir
	9:30am	SOUPATHON
	10:30am	Worship
	6:30pm	Laymen Playmen Music Rehearsal
Mon Nov. 14, 2022	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Comm. Meeting via Zoom
Tue Nov. 15, 2022	7:00pm	Council Meeting
	7:00pm	Laymen Playmen Rehearsal
Thurs Nov. 17, 2022	7:00pm	Laymen Playmen Rehearsal
Sun Nov. 20, 2022	8:00am	Worship/Communion
	9:15am	Sunday School
	9:30am	Choir
	10:30am	Worship/Communion
Tue Nov. 22, 2022	7:00pm	INreach Meeting
	7:00pm	Laymen Playmen Rehearsal
Wed Nov. 23, 2022	6:15pm	NO YOGA
	7:00pm	Thanksgiving Eve Service here at Grace
Thursday, Nov. 24	Happy Thanksgiving ! Church office and Stepping Stones Closed	
Friday, Nov. 25	Church office and Stepping Stones Closed	

Sun Nov. 27, 2022	8:00am	Worship
	9:15am	Sunday School
	9:30am	Choir
	10:30am	Worship
Wed Nov. 30, 2022	6:30pm	Choir
	7:30 pm	Contemplative service

During the Week: Join Pastor Raabe live on Facebook for the Night Prayer service every Monday at 8 pm through November 21, and look for her sermon preview during the week on our YouTube page. Stay in touch with Grace!



WORDS OF GRATITUDE

- To those involved in setting up, cleaning up and providing for our Coffee Hour. We appreciate being able to relax and visit together after worship. A special thank you to our new Hospitality team for all they're doing as well.
- To the volunteers who set up for and prepared the funeral luncheon for Dolores McGlinchey's funeral on October 22. The blessing of your time allowed us to provide the family with this important service.
- To the Property Team for their work in cleaning out our 30 N. Main property, preparing for its renovation, and arranging for the removal of the large tree in front.
- To our Sunday School class for providing catchy and meaningful phrases for our outdoor signs and for putting them up.
- Those helping out with Bread Drop deliveries, putting out coolers Tuesday mornings and taking the filled coolers up to Emmanuel in Souderton on Tuesday evening.
- To those who spearheaded the Harvest Home food drive and delivered the food to Manna on Main and the EEC food cupboard.
- To our families who came out for Game Night on October 21. We played "professional" cornhole, learned many new board games and enjoyed yummy ice cream sundaes.

thank
you

Thank you for supporting the North Penn Area CROP WALK on Sunday, October 9, 2022

Sunday, Oct. 9th was a great day for a walk to help raise funding for those in need of food both locally and globally. Special thanks to our Grace walkers: Kathy Stawasz and Jean Shaffer. **Our walkers raised \$1,555 for CROP. A *record*** amount for Grace walkers. Thank you to all the sponsors who supported our walkers. *For nearly half a century, CROP Hunger Walks have ensured that more people worldwide have access to nutritious, sustainable food sources. From combating droughts in Nicaragua to providing agricultural training in Indonesia to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States, CROP Hunger Walks help end hunger by raising funds to support local food programs and the international anti-hunger work of Church World Service.* (From the CROP Hunger Walk website)

WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

Ladies, Wednesday, November 2nd is our next meeting and we will be doing Thanksgiving cards for our Homebound members. Please bring some cards with you. We will also be talking about the bake sale that we will be having on November 20th. As always bring a lunch if you like. I hope to see everyone. Take care, Barb



Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project 2022

Christmas and gifts to give!! During the Advent season we anticipate God's greatest gift - Jesus. Each year we look forward to and prepare for the celebration of his birth. However, for some families in our community, it is a time of concern about providing daily needs.

The Giving in Service team invites you to help provide gifts to families in our area to allow them to celebrate a traditional family Christmas and to experience sharing gifts with their family. This year we will be sharing our gifts with several families from Stepping Stones.

We hope you will plan on doing some Christmas shopping for our families this year. Watch for the display in the narthex in November. Suggested items for each family will be available for your choosing. We encourage you to shop as you do now – online or in stores. You may also choose to do gift cards as well.

Angel gifts will be collected for the Hatfield Christmas Committee for area families including the families we support. A list of items is available near the display in the narthex. These items cannot be purchased with food stamps and are personal items needed by families that are serviced by our area food cupboards. Your items may be brought to church anytime. Ending date for both our Adopt-a-Family and the angel gifts will be **Sunday Dec. 18th**. What a wonderful way to begin the Advent Season by giving to one of our families.

The Giving in Service Team – Jean Shaffer, Diane Ball, Carol MacDonald, Barb Watts
Mary Jane Moyer, Kay Deussing, and Kay Stone

Angel Boxes

When COVID first came to our area, H3C changed our manner of helping our local neighbors at Christmas time. We are continuing with this new procedure and will be supporting the families connected with the two local Food Cupboards and Stepping Stones with \$25.00 to Giant or Walmart gift cards and personal hygiene items.

The Angel Boxes will be geared to personal hygiene products as many of these items cannot be purchased with food stamps. We are asking for only personal hygiene items. Once collected, they will be made available to the families in need through the two food cupboards and Stepping Stones. The list of these items include:

Toilet paper, Paper towels, Kleenex, Shampoo- tight lids, Toothpaste and brushes, Razors, Bar Soap, deodorant, Feminine products

We will be collecting these items until **Sunday, December 18th**. They can be dropped off in the Narthex.

Thank you,

H3C and Mary Catherine Reilly



Save the Date

Saturday, December 10th

Advent Family Night

Dinner – Crafts – Decorating the Tree

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, Cheryl Davis (Paul MacDonald's sister), 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).

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, Janet Williams (Carol MacDonald's mother), the Scarola family (dear friends of Peggy & Bruce Schmidt), Debbie Hendricks (cousin of Mary Jane Moyer), 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 (John and Jean Weierman's nephew), Sue & Faith Rowbottom, Deb Mandell (Cub Pack 510 treasurer), Lucia Morales (Crystal Tula's mother-in-law), Tom Burke (Laura Kratz's daughter's co-worker), Bill Reilly (Bob Reilly's brother), Jan Madigan (Sue Wieland's niece), John Renick, Lou Farrell, Pastor Jennifer Phelps, Joan Wright & Alicia Hollingsworth (friends of Linda Renick), Brittany Brown, the family of Lori & Jim Pluda, Laura Raabe (Pastor and Bill's cousin), Diane Pierson, Betty Parry (friend of Kay & Frank Stone who is recovering from a fall and just lost her husband), Robert Maragon (friend of Frank & Kay Stone).

For all who grieve, including the family and friends of: Cheryl Davis (Paul MacDonald's sister), Ron Thomsen and Lewis Parry (friends of Kay & Frank Stone), Ruth McMahon (Laura Slugg's mother), Dolores McGlinchey.

For those in active duty military service: Robert McNulty, Marines, Jessica Murphy, Air Force; Matthew Smyrl, Army; Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard

For active military deployed overseas: Kyle Murphy, Air Force



EEC Food Cupboard

Janet Haque shared that the food cupboard continues to register new people every week and the needs of our Hatfield neighbors are continuing to grow. Thank you for your ongoing, consistent response; we truly could not continue this ministry without your help! Below, please find the most recent pantry shortages:

Food: Cereal, Lasagna noodles, Salad dressing, mayonnaise, Tuna in OIL, Spaghetti sauce, Applesauce, 100% Fruit Juice

Household & Personal Care: Conditioner, Shampoo, Soap/Body Wash, 13 gal Trash bags, Baby wipes

Upcoming distribution dates & times:

Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm : November 1, 15, 29

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: November 8 & 22

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



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2022



Poinsettias will be available for decoration of our Chancel. Orders are now being taken. The DEADLINE for ordering is Sunday, 12/4/22.

You may pick up your plant after the last Christmas Eve Service or the following Sunday. The plants will be tagged with your name and in memory or in honor of information. Regrettably, we are not able to deliver the Poinsettias to friends or shut-ins.

Please place your order form along with your check in the basket marked for Christmas Poinsettias in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Stawasz 215-760-6297. Thank you.

Total \$ Amount Enclosed: _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____
_____ Ordered by:

_____ Phone No. _____

_____ ☒ Check here if you do not want your flowers.

Cost - \$8.25 Red - 1 Branched Poinsettia 4-6 Blooms Pot Size 6"

Qty. _____

Cost - \$14.50 2 Branched Poinsettia 8-12 Blooms Pot Size 7"

Red & White Combination _____ Qty. _____

Make checks payable to: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hatfield Community Christmas Tree Lighting and Special Events

Hosted by Grace Lutheran Church and Cub Pack 510

Saturday, December 3rd

**Events Start at Grace Lutheran Church
40 N. Main Street, Hatfield**



Something for Everyone!
Join the fun in this
Cherished Hatfield Tradition!



**2:30 – 4:30 – Pet Pictures With Santa! A \$10.00
donation will go to the Pals For Life – A Non-
Profit Pet Therapy Organization**

**5:00 – Enjoy the Fun with a Hot Dog Meal, Hot
Drinks by Philly Espresso, and Games and
Crafts for everyone!**



**6:00 – Walk down to the Railroad Plaza for
caroling and the arrival of Santa Claus!**

**6:30 – Lighting of the Hatfield
Community Christmas Tree!**



Note: In the event of inclement weather, we will virtually watch the tree lighting from the Social Room at Grace Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran Church
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Jessica Moran, Director

November 6th	All Saints Sunday
November 13th	SOUPATHON
November 23rd	Thanksgiving Eve Service
November 24th	Happy Thanksgiving !
November 30th	First Advent Service



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