



# PARISH NEWS

To Glorify God ♦ To Grow in Faith ♦ To Give in Service ♦ Together in Christ

[www.gracelutheranhatfield.org](http://www.gracelutheranhatfield.org)

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

## Learning to Listen

I once attended a chamber music concert with a theologian friend who is also a musician. I found it delightful, and ultimately a little distracting, that she responded with a “Hmmm!” or “Ooooh!” to almost everything that happened – all those little things that make music worth



listening to, including the subtle bending of tempo, nuanced dynamic shadings, and the use of articulation to make a note especially expressive. The concert was good, so there were a lot of these!

What I quickly realized was that she really knew how to listen. The music was not just washing over her as it seemed to be for many others in the audience. Instead, she practiced an art of fine listening that allowed her to be inside the mystery, making the music happen right alongside the performers.

This memory came to mind when I was thinking about how we learn to listen to God’s voice. At that moment Jack Noble White’s wonderful musical setting of Psalm 95:1-7 popped into my head:

*Come let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.*

*Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.*

*For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.*

*In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.*

*The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.*

*Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.*

*For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.*

*Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!* (Version from The Hymnal 1982)

What do you notice in the progression of these verses? That first, we are shouting; but by verse 7, we are listening, because in verse 6 we quieted down and assumed a posture of worship.

Minister of Music	
Minister of Music	3
Serving schedule	4
Calendar	5
Harvest Home	6
WELCA & Stepping Stones	6
CROP Walk	7
Prayer List	8
Food Cupboard	9
Yoga & Coffee Hour	9
<b>Worship returns to our fall/winter schedule of 8 and 10:30 am on September 10th</b>	

How do we learn to hear God’s voice, especially over all the noise of daily life?

God’s voice has been with us from the beginning. Genesis opens with the words “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” But what was the mode of that creation? Did God stretch out God’s hands and start shaping the universe like a potter with a primeval lump of dark matter? I think not. Everything suggests that the acts of creating was sound: *God spoke*. God spoke creation into being.

It's true that the Hebrew word in Genesis 1:1 is “created.” But Genesis immediately goes on to show that God’s most characteristic action is *to speak*. Check it out: God speaks in Genesis 1:3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, and 29. God’s voice calls all the forms of creation into being.

God’s way with creation, then, is the way of language. And God continues to speak. Are we listening?

Listening for God’s voice is not as challenging as it might seem. God is prodding us all the time. Think of a time when you were trying to decide about something important and friends told you, “Follow your gut” or “Trust your instinct.” What do these phrases mean? Our gut itself has nothing to tell us (other than “don’t eat that kind of food again!”). And humans have no instincts where complex life choices are involved. What those friends were really saying was: “Listen for that still, small voice of God, and bind yourself to it.”

To listen we must clear away all the distractions so that only the voice of God remains. Sit quietly, open your mind and heart to the winds of the Holy Spirit, and let God’s voice come to you on those breezes.

“Everything in life is vibration,” Albert Einstein is supposed to have said. The entire universe exists as a series of vibrations set in motion by God’s initial spoken command. Everything in creation is bound together by the gracious movement of God toward creation, manifested in our world as the gift of Jesus Christ. If God’s voice is still sounding, especially through his beloved Son, why would it not be sounding for you – and through you?

*Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!*

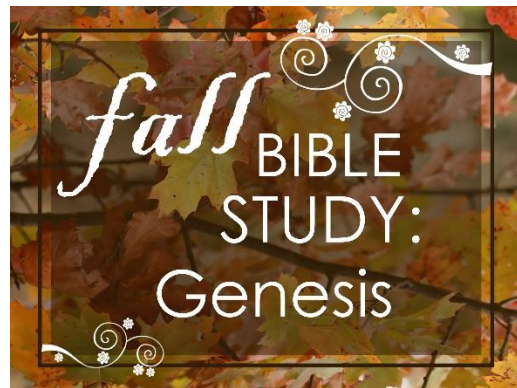
*Pasta Nanny Raabe*



**FALL BIBLE STUDY: GENESIS** Alternate Sundays/Wednesdays

If you were intrigued by all the readings we had from Genesis this summer (or even if you weren’t!), you will enjoy our fall Bible study focusing on this timeless book from the Hebrew Scriptures. We will look at selected passages “from the beginning,” delving into the meaning of words, varying interpretations, and surprising discoveries about how these ancient stories intersect with modern-day life. Bring your own Bibles so we can have a variety of translations; we’ll also have study Bibles on hand. A Zoom option can be made available, but you must let Pastor Raabe know well ahead of time and then commit to attending.

Times: (See next page)



## FALL BIBLE STUDY

**Sundays from 9:15-10 a.m.:** September 10, 24; October 15, 22;  
November 5, 19; December 3, 17

**Wednesdays from 12 noon-12:45 p.m.** (bring a lunch): September 13, 27; October 18, 25;  
November 8, 22; and December 6, 20

A minimum of 3 participants is required for each section to go forward. Please SIGN UP in the narthex!



### From Our Minister of Music:

This month my oldest son is getting married. He and his fiancé have really worked hard to put together a special day with all their friends and family. It will be quite a celebration. The couple have also planned a small photo table to honor their grandmothers who both passed this year. It will be a little bittersweet but how amazing they have considered a little detail like that.

Over the summer I pulled out many stops, so to speak, and put together a long list of music for choir to learn this Fall. I have hopes that we can learn all of it in time, but for the moment consider this lovely text from the First Song of Isaiah "Surely, it is God who saves me; I will trust in him and not be afraid. Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, and this is known in all the world."



Joyfully rejoicing,  
Kevin

## September Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
09/03/23 9:15 am Labor Day Weekend	B. Hess & S. Weiland	Barb Hess	Richard Badman	Usher	K. Heacock and D. Capanear	N/A
09/10/23 8:00 am  10:30 am	N/A	N/A	Walter Family B. Krout	Usher  E. Krout	Walter Family J. Krout & K. Deussing	Diane Ball
09/17/23 8:00 am 10:30 am	J. Swartz E. Woltmann	B. Schmidt J. Snyder	The Seilers J. Snyder	Usher L. Kaler	The Seilers K. Stone & K. Stawasz	Don Capanear
09/24/23 8:00 am 10:30 am	N/A	N/A	D. Kunkel R. Badman	Usher Usher	D. Capanear & D. Kunkel K. Heacock & C. Tula	

**Council Offering/Lock-up for September is Dave Kunkel, 8:00am; Jeff Krout, 10:30am.**

**Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm**

**2024 Serving Schedule volunteers.....**Yes, it's that time of year to start setting up the 2024 serving schedule. If you are currently on the schedule, we will keep you on unless we hear from you. We are always looking for new volunteers. Please contact one of us if you would like to volunteer. Thanks.

Altar Guild – Emily Woltmann 215-822-5909, [emiwol95@gmail.com](mailto:emiwol95@gmail.com)

Communion Assistants – Carol MacDonald 215-872-0472, [carol.w.macdonald@gmail.com](mailto:carol.w.macdonald@gmail.com)

Lector and Acolytes – Kathy Stawasz 215-760-6297, [kathystawasz@gmail.com](mailto:kathystawasz@gmail.com)

Ushers and Coffee Hour – Kay Stone 215-368-3725, [kaystone@comcast.net](mailto:kaystone@comcast.net)

Live Streaming – Harold Schaefer 484-576-0611, [schafeh\\_19440@yahoo.com](mailto:schafeh_19440@yahoo.com)

Thanks in advance for volunteering.

**ANNUAL BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS: October 1, 2023, at 2 p.m.**

“All God’s creatures got a place in the choir....” Bring your beloved furry, fluffy, feathered, scaly, (or whatever!) loved ones to Grace at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup> for our annual pet blessing. Everyone gets a treat and a special blessing. All leashed, caged, or carefully cradled animals are welcome.



## September 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 returns on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 6:15 pm

<b>Sun Sept 3, 2023</b>	<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Worship/Communion</b>
Mon Sept 4, 2023		<b>Labor Day</b> , Church Office & Stepping Stones Closed
Tues Sept 5, 2023	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed Sept 6, 2023	10:00am	WELCA
<b>Sun Sept 10, 2023</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
Tues Sept 12, 2023	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Wed Sept 13, 2023	1:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Thurs Sept 14, 2023	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Committee Meeting
<b>Sun Sept 17, 2023</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Worship/Communion</b>
	<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship/Communion</b>
	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Confirmation</b>
Tues Sept 19, 2023	7:00pm	Council Meeting, Zoom option
<b>Sun Sept 24, 2023</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
Wed Sept 27, 2023	1:00pm	Choir Rehearsal

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Youth and parents, come along to Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Souderton **on September 10 at 12 noon** for GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS Sunday! We'll join with the Emmanuel E-Meal Ministry and many other groups to lend our hands to packing a goal of 2,000 meal bags for distribution to those in need. Parent drivers are appreciated. We'll leave from Grace at 11:45 a.m. and work until around 1 p.m.



## WORDS OF GRATITUDE

- To our Property Team for following the renovation and follow-up work of 30 N. Main into the home stretch and expertly managing all aspects of the process, to prepare it for rental. SUCCESS!
- To Kevin for his idea for "Shout-Out" Sundays and his expertise in playing whatever is requested.

## WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

Welca ladies it is really hard to believe September is just around the corner and our first meeting is on September 6<sup>th</sup>. We will be making a calendar and have a few things to discuss. Hope to see you; bring lunch and always a friend. Take care, Barb

## Stepping Stones News

And just like that it's a fresh school year! This school year will be filled with special events and spirit days! We can't wait to enjoy the Trike a Thon, Read a Thon, Thanksgiving Feast, and so much more. Stepping Stones will be closed on 9/4 for Labor Day and Picture Day is scheduled for 9/20. Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page to see what we're up to every day! It's always busy here!



This Fall, Stepping Stones will be collecting school supplies. Please check the list, and all donations can be placed in the marked bins in the Narthex, by 9/22 please. Thank you in advance !

Stepping Stones School Supplies needed: (no crayons needed at this time)

Lunch Boxes

Pencils and Pencil Boxes

Notebooks

Folders

Scissors

Backpacks



## *Harvest Home Sunday: September 24<sup>th</sup>*

**Harvest Home** will be celebrated on Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. Our gifts of food will help those in our immediate communities who are in need. These offerings are shared with ***Manna on Main Street*** in Lansdale and ***The Hatfield Food Cupboard*** at our neighbor church, Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church.

You are invited to bring ***canned goods and non-perishable items*** to church during September. There is a display in the narthex with a list of food items needed and a basket where you can place your food offerings.

A few suggested food items from Manna and The Food Cupboard are:

Tuna in Oil

Pasta (no spaghetti) and Spaghetti Sauce

Canned tomato products – diced, whole, paste, sauce

Dried fruit – raisins, apples, dates

Flour and sugar

Toothpaste

Shampoo/Conditioner

Body Wash

Laundry Detergent

**In addition** to bringing items of food for our neighbors in our area, you may also use the envelope included in your offering envelope box that is designated for ***Harvest Home Sunday***. These gifts will be given to the **ELCA World Hunger Appeal**. You will be providing funds needed for our neighbors in countries around the world.

The *Giving In Service Team* appreciates your support for this project.

## **30 N. MAIN STREET OBTAINS TENANT!**

After almost a year of renovations and upgrades, our rental property at 30 N. Main has a tenant. The property is being managed for Grace by North Penn Real Estate. Thank you to everyone for their patience during this process.



## Faith Lutheran Montgomeryville: An Afternoon with Julie Henning, Saturday, September 23 at 1 p.m.

Our friends at Faith, 615 Cowpath Road, have invited us to hear Julie's compelling story. Born in South Korea during the Korean War, she was brought to America by Pearl Buck at age 13 and raised as her daughter. Some of us already know Julie as a warm, compelling presenter.



Tickets are needed for a food count, so please call Sharon Hood at Faith, 215-822-2579 if you plan to attend.



## 2023 CROP WALK

*Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>*

Join and help change the world!

The North Penn/Lansdale 45<sup>th</sup> Annual **CROP Walk** will be held rain or shine. The walk begins and ends at Manna on Main Street in Lansdale. Won't you join in the fun and walk so that others may have food on their tables!! The funds raised at area CROP Walks are given to Church World Service. CWS distributes these funds to the areas in the world in most need of help. Our local walk returns 25 percent of the funds raised to Manna on Main Street. In 2022, Manna served 66,176 meals. Manna also distributed 662,799 pounds of food to 1,178 households (includes 3,328 individuals).

Manna is organizing the North Penn/Lansdale CROP Walk. The walk will begin at Manna on Main Street, 606 East Main Street, Lansdale. People will gather in the lobby of North Penn commons outside Manna on Main Street. Walkers will travel down Main Street in Landale past Saint John's United Church of Christ, where Manna was founded, and continue to North Cannon Avenue. This year's 2.6-mile route will tie-in Manna's past, present and future.

If you cannot join the walk, help sponsor one of our Grace walkers. For information about CROP Walk, see Jean Shaffer (or email Jean at [zumbajejan47@gmail.com](mailto:zumbajejan47@gmail.com)) and Kathy Stawasz (or email Kathy at [kathy\\_stawasz@merck.com](mailto:kathy_stawasz@merck.com)).

You may also contribute to Grace's Team online at [2023 CROP Hunger Walk - Grace Lutheran Church-Hatfield](#)

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

*North Penn/Lansdale*  
**CROP HUNGER WALK**

OCTOBER 08, 2023

LANSDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

**Do you know** CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of [Church World Service](#), a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised will be returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

**Do you know** that the Crop Project began in **1947** when farmers were asked to donate food and seed crops to our hungry neighbors in post-World War II Europe and Asia. The first CROP Hunger Walks took place in Bismarck, North Dakota (1969), and **York, Pennsylvania** (1970). Since then, CROP Hunger Walk events have been held in hundreds of communities, large and small, raising millions of dollars to eradicate hunger and poverty.

## 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, 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), Allie Moyer (Mary Jane Moyer's granddaughter), Angelina Mascaro, Bob Yoder, Alice Ciarrocca (friend of Karen Heacock & Phyllis McKeefrey), Loretta Seiler & Linda Conrad (Ken's stepmother & her daughter), Anita Spisak (Ken's mom), Chuck Slugg, Christopher Humlhanz (Jaime Snyder's cousin), Betty Poling (June Detweiler's sister), Jane Lankford (Peggy & Bruce Schmidt's friend), Linda Renick.

**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, Ethel Rappold, Galen Hosgood (Jaime Snyder's grandfather), Sandra Wood (friend of Andrea Roney).

**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

## Wednesday Evening Picnics

Thank you to our hosts for our Summer gatherings!

- Church Council Members
  - Barb Watts
- Mary Jane Moyer, Jean Shaffer, Emily Woltmann and Barbara Hess
  - Peggy and Bruce Schmidt

And thanks to all of YOU who joined us for delicious food, great fun & fellowship





## EEC Food Cupboard

Janet Hague gave a wonderful temple talk at Grace in August and reminded us how our donations are extremely helpful in feeding MANY people that continue to show up each month for resources at the EEC food cupboard. On Tuesday evening, August 15, 2023, there were 25 families served and 1270 lbs. of food distributed! 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:** Boxed mac & cheese, Pasta sauce with or without meat, Soup (no chicken noodle), "cream of" Soup, Rolled oats (regular or quick), Instant oatmeal, Fruit cocktail, Coffee

**Household & Personal Care\*:** Laundry detergent\*, Toilet paper\*, Paper towels\*

**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: Sept 5 & 19

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: Sept 12 & 26

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](mailto:foodcupboard@yahoo.com).

You can also call/email Carol MacDonald @215-872-0472; [pcmacdonald125@gmail.com](mailto:pcmacdonald125@gmail.com)



## YOGA (Hatha) CLASS Back by Popular Demand

Every Wednesday, September 13, 2023 – December 13, 2023 from 6:15-7:15 pm.

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.

WHERE: Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, 40 N. Main Street, Hatfield, PA

COST: \$7/class (Make checks payable to: Grace Lutheran Church) All proceeds benefit the "Sanctuary Village" project in Philadelphia. Tiny house village program provides transitional housing to the city's homeless population. 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) if interested or just show up !

### COFFEE HOUR:

We return to our regular pattern of Coffee Hour starting September 10. Please join us every week in the atrium following worship for food and fellowship!

**Grace Lutheran Church  
Rev Nancy M Raabe, Pastor  
40 North Main Street  
Hatfield PA 19440-2905**

**GraceLutheranHatfield.org  
Facebook.com/GraceLutheranHatfield  
Office Phone 215.855.4676**

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

**Stepping Stones 215.368.2052  
Jessica Moran, Director**

**Monday, September 4<sup>th</sup> - Labor Day  
Church Office & Stepping Stones Closed**

**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>  
Return to two services at 8:00am and 10:30am**

**Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday School begins and first Confirmation meeting**

*View our website by scanning this code:*



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