

# 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 October 2023

#### FALL "PLEDGE PARTY": An Invitation

Your Giving to God team -- Ken Seiler, Jaime Snyder and Wendy Walter, with Pastor Raabe – is delighted to invite you to our fall "pledge party" for the month of October on the theme **"HERE I AM, LORD:** WHAT CAN I GIVE?"



Balloons? Cake? Well, this is not a party in the traditional

sense of the word, but a four-week *adventure* into the gifts, talents and expressions of faith we find at Grace across generations.

We'll focus on youth on October 1, young adults on October 8, those of middle age on October 15 and our retirees on October 22. Each week we'll enjoy what each group bring to our life together and give thanks for the many gifts of God's grace. On October 29 we will bless the pledge cards that you should have received by now. If you forget to bring yours there are plenty more in the narthex. You may mail them back to us or put them in the designated box. Please have these back to us by October 22.

Also, we prayerfully ask that you consider an increase in your pledge

this year. Ask yourself, "What <u>can</u> I give?" The cost of living is increasing but so are costs facing Grace. However, we don't ask for this simply to pay our bills. The fact is that even a slight increase in giving among all members will make a world of difference in our ability to develop initiatives and ministries to take us into a bright future. For example, just \$5 more per week from each active member could raise enough for a new part-time youth ministry position! Let's be full-hearted in our desire to bring new life to our mission statement: "To glorify God, to grow in faith, to give in service, together in Christ."

Here are some features of "pledge party" you can look forward to:

- The hymn "Here I Am, Lord" will be featured as the Gathering Hymn each week, with successive stanzas featuring the designated age group in some way.
- Our team has composed beautiful devotionals for each week focusing on each age. These will be
  inserted into your bulletin, attached with the weekly Grace Notes email, and displayed on posterboard
  outside the sanctuary entrances.
- Be looking for new banners on the veranda in bright fall colors, centered on the theme of welcoming.
- On October 22 we will share a meal after the 10:30 service prepared by our youth and served by our retirees. And yes, here there will be cake and balloons!

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Our gratitude for all that God gives us remains our overarching theme. Abundant grace, abundant blessing, abundant life: How can we not give abundantly in return?

Yours in the risen Christ,

Pasta Normy Raabe

#### Postscript: A few thoughts on giving



When we commit time, talent, money, and other resources to church or to the world, we also symbolize something that goes beyond the actual immediate action. We represent the commitment of our whole lives to the values and practices of God. We say, through our gifts, "We are in covenant with God to work towards a world in which God's gracious love shapes our perception of all things, and in which God's gracious love creates gracious and loving relationships among all people and desires such relationships among all living things and all other elements of nature." In other words, we are active members of God's kingdom.

This dimension is especially in play when we place money or a check in the offering plate, or when we mail a check or make an electronic transfer of funds. The act of making an offering is one of renewing commitment to God and to God's ways of love and justice. Each week we say, "Count me in the movement from this fractured and fractious world to a world of love, justice, peace, freedom, dignity, security, and abundance for all."

Moreover, the practice of giving to the church can be a means of grace. One reason we worship weekly is that we so easily forget the presence and love of God, and can so easily drift into attitudes, values, and behaviors that work against God's purposes of love for all. Worship reminds us of the promises of God to us and of our response to God. This is one reason my prayer is that you will worship with us *every* week, not just once in a while. Helping with service project or attending a meeting at church also reminds us of the brokenness of the world, God's healing love, and our commitment to be part of the movement towards a loving and just world. Look for a few words on this topic at the time of "Offering" during our worship services this month.



#### From Our Minister of Music:

It's the 3rd week of September and I'm preparing a lot of new music. Here's a few things to be thinking of and thankful for. Our dearest friend, Dale Moyer, as most of you know, was a devoted choir singer for years. Dale knew a lot about choir and the music they sing each week. The time we singers spend together becomes a heartfelt meaningful experience. Mary Jane and her family have kindly given Grace a memorial for music specifically for the choir. I can't think of a more wonderful way to honor Dale as a choir member and I'm so grateful for the gift of music. I've ordered some new anthems and am excited to learn this new music with the choir.

I've also spent some time arranging some music for the choir myself and have started working with the choir on these. One of these you'll certainly be familiar with is my arrangement of the song "O Happy Day," a spiritual which I'm pretty sure everyone will want to join in singing!

You might remember last year I played a 30-minute organ concert at St John UCC in Lansdale. I've been invited back, and I'm scheduled to play on Tuesday, Nov. 28th at 12 noon. Anyone is welcome to attend. It's sponsored by the Philadelphia chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

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Kevin
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#### **October Serving Schedule**

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
10/01/23 8:00 am 10:30 am	J. Detweiler E. Woltmann	The Seilers F. Stone	The Seilers L. Renick	Usher Usher	K. Seiler D. Ball J. Snyder K. Stawasz	The Seilers
10/08/23 8:00 am 10:30 am	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	Walter Family Slugg Family	Usher Usher	Walter Family Slugg Family	Kay Stone
10/15/23 8:00 am 10:30 am	J. Detweiler E. Woltmann	B. Schmidt C. MacDonald	P. Schmidt J. Tula	Usher C. Tula	P. Schmidt D. Capanear K. Heacock K. Deussing	Diane Ball
10/22/23 8:00 am 10:30 am	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	R. Smyrl R. Reilly	Usher Usher	R. Smyrl D. Ball C. & P. MacDonald	D. Capanear
10/29/23 Reformation Sunday 8:00 am 10:30 am	J. Detweiler B. Hess S. Weiland	B. Schmidt K. Stawasz	P. Schmidt K. Stawasz	Usher K. Stawasz	P. Schmidt D.Capanear J. Snyder C. Tula	Bruce Schmidt

Council Offering/Lock-up for October is TBD, 8:00am; Sue Wieland, 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, <u>emiwol95@gmail.com</u> Communion Assistants – Carol MacDonald 215-872-0472, <u>carol.w.macdonald@gmail.com</u> Lector and Acolytes – Kathy Stawasz 215-760-6297, <u>kathystawasz@gmail.com</u> Ushers and Coffee Hour – Kay Stone 215-368-3725, <u>kaystone@comcast.net</u> Live Streaming – Harold Schaefer 484-576-0611, <u>schaefeh 19440@yahoo.com</u>

Thank you in advance for volunteering!

### PET BLESSING AND LITURGY OF REMEMBRANCE



Celebrate God's gift of his amazing creatures at our annual **Blessing of the Animals** on **Sunday, October 1 at 2 p.m.** in the grassy area behind the church. This year we will include a blessing of pollinators (butterflies, earthworms) and a **litany of remembrance** for pets who have died; you may bring a special item to honor your departed family friend. Like St. Francis of Assisi, we consider all our pets to be "brothers" and "sisters."



#### **October Calendar**

- The Jesus Love Church (formerly Central Philadelphia) will be worshiping 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 from September 13 to December 13, 2023 at 6:15 pm

Sun Oct 1, 2023	8:00am	Worship/Communion	
	9:15am	Sunday School	
	10:30am	Worship/Communion	
	2:00pm	Annual Blessing of the Animals	
	7:00pm	Confirmation	
Tues Oct 3, 2023	7:00pm	Stitchers	
Sun Oct 8, 2023	8:00am	Worship	
	9:15am	Sunday School	
	10:30am	Worship	
Tues Oct 10, 2023	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting	
	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting	
	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Committee Meeting via Zoom	
Sun Oct 15, 2023	8:00am	Worship/Communion	
	9:15am	Sunday School	
	10:30am	Worship/Communion	
	7:00pm	Confirmation	
Tues Oct 17, 2023	7:00pm	Council Meeting, Zoom option	
Sat Oct 21, 2023	10:00am	Stepping Stones Trunk or Treat	
Sun Oct 22, 2023	8:00am	Worship	
	9:15am	Sunday School	
	10:30am	Worship	
Tues Oct 24, 2023	6:30pm	INReach	
Wed Oct 25, 2023	7:00pm	Grace Budget Meeting	
Sun Oct 29, 2023	Reformatio	n Sunday	
	8:00am	Worship/Communion	
	9:15am	Sunday School	
	10:30am	Worship/Communion	
	7:00pm	Confirmation	
Mon Oct 30, 2023	7:00pm	Giving in Service	
Tues Oct 31, 2023		Happy Halloween !	

# FALL BIBLE STUDY: GENESIS Alternate Sundays/Wednesdays

We have begun to delve into the fascinating stories in the Book of Genesis to discover what they have to say to us thousands of years later. You may be surprised to find how relevant these messages are (if not the means by which they are conveyed). We meet on alternate Sundays at 9:15 and alternate Wednesdays at 1 p.m. Join in anytime!

# **CELEBRATING OUR MINISTRIES**

In place of the traditional Ministry Fair with which we began the fall season the last two years, this year we have produced a comprehensive Ministry Teams booklet describing all that is going on at Grace and will feature two of those teams each month here and with displays in the narthex.

The booklet was attached to a recent edition of Grace Notes and can be picked up at church or mailed to you on request. Please take a few minutes to read through it and appreciate all the hard work that goes into making Grace such a lively, faith-

filled community! If you'd like to get involved in any of these groups, talk to the chair (in bold type) or Pastor Raabe.

This month's featured Ministry Teams:

#### WORSHIP AND MUSIC

The Worship and Music team provides the organization for our worship services. Our activities include altar guild, choir, altar flowers, Sunday morning bulletins, ushers, greeters, lectors, acolytes, communion assistants, and use of the church nursery. We also coordinate the decorating of the church for the Christmas and Easter Seasons. Our team meets at Grace monthly on the second Tuesday of each month. Members: **Kay Stone**, Kevin Freaney Don Capanear, Kathy Stawasz, Emily and Rich Woltmann

#### GIVING IN SERVICE

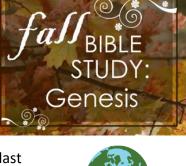
The Giving In Service Team provides the congregation with projects to help people outside of our congregation in need of our care and resources. We currently have six projects throughout the year that give aid to various organizations. Our team meets four times a year (February, May, August and November). Members: **Kay Stone**, Carol MacDonald, Diane Ball, Mary Jane Moyer, Jean Shaffer, Cathy Farrell, Barbara Watts, Kay Deussing, Kay Stone

# • YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Members of our Confirmation class participated in the "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday on September 10 by helping pack food for distribution at the E-Meal program at Emmanuel Lutheran in Souderton. You can now find pictures of their work on the Synod web site along with those from many other congregations that day! Service projects are a big part of the Confirmation experience this year.

# ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT IS BACK

To decorate the church for Christmas, Grace will once again host Advent Family Night on **Saturday, December 9 from 5-7:30 p.m.** This year we are giving the church a bright new look with fresh decorations and new ideas. We'll start with crafts, followed by a light supper, carols, and decorating. Fun for the whole family!





### WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

Ladies, at our first meeting on September 6th we decided that we would have our meetings every other month, so there will be no meeting in October. November's meeting will be Wednesday, 11/1 and we also said we would have one again in December and maybe go out to a special place for lunch. Beginning January 2024, we will meet every other month. Of course, I will email you before every meeting. Take care, Barb

#### 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.
- To our Confirmation parents for supporting this year's lively class of six confirmands.
- To our Mutual Ministry team and Council for their energy and creative ideas about how we can enrich and deepen our life together at Grace.
- To our INReach team for caring so well for those who are ill or recovering from surgeries.
- From Kay Deussing: "Special thanks to all my church family's caring ways and thoughtfulness, bringing soup and prayers during my illness."



#### **Stepping Stones News**

It's Fall, Y'all! We are already in the spirit of the season with pumpkins, leaves, and Fall celebrations! Stepping Stones will begin its Fall Fundraiser on 10/5 and it will wrap up on 10/16. If you're interested in a catalog or placing an order, please see Miss Rebecca's desk or speak with Miss Jessica. Our ever-famous Pretzel Day will be on 10/19 and we will have Flannel Shirt Day on 10/27.



Stepping Stones will also be enjoying Halloween by hosting this year's Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 21 from 10 AM to 12 PM. Please let Miss Jessica know if you'd like to host a trunk! We will also celebrate in-house with our annual Fall Festival and Halloween Parade on 10/31 so keep an eye on our Facebook and Instagram to see our costumes and cheer us on!

#### **Annual Coat Drive**



**Our Annual Coat Drive** has two aspects this year. First, our **Stepping Stones** families need coats for their children. We will be collecting coats here at Grace for that purpose for babies through preschool until Thanksgiving. Please place those in the bins in the narthex. Second, we are helping to support the families of the Hatfield food cupboards with gift cards that can go toward children's coats or clothing. Monetary gifts may be made out to the Church

of the Brethren and addressed to Pastor Clay Moyer, 1333 Cowpath Road, Hatfield, PA 19440. Thank you for your continued support of all the families in our community.

**OTHER NEWS: Pastor Raabe is the keynote speaker** this year for the Theological Convocation of the ELCA Southwest Pennsylvania Synod October 9-11 at the Antiochian Village Conference and Retreat Center in the Laurel Highlands. She will be preaching at the closing Eucharist and leading three sessions on the topic of "Renewing Worship from Within." Her presentations will include worship and liturgical music demonstrations illustrating how to keep the church's worship life energized and evolving while remaining committed to Lutheran traditions and resources.



# Harvest Home THANK YOU!!

Thank you to all of you who shared food items for Harvest Home on Sunday September 24<sup>th</sup>. These gifts were delivered to *The Hatfield Food Cupboard* at our neighbor church, Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational

Church and Manna on Main Street in Lansdale.

Thanks also to those of you who chose to use your envelope included in your offering envelope box that was designated for *Harvest Home Sunday*. These gifts will be given to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal which provides funds needed for our neighbors in countries around the world.

The Giving In Service Team

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD



### 2023 CROP WALK

Sunday, October 8th

Join and help change the world!

The walk will begin at Manna on Main Street, 606 East Main Street, Lansdale. Registration is at 2 pm. 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, contact:

Jean Shaffer (or email Jean at <a href="mailto:zumbajean47@gmail.com">zumbajean47@gmail.com</a>)

Kathy Stawasz (or email Kathy at kathy stawasz@merck.com)

You may also contribute to Grace's Team online at 2023 CROP Hunger Walk - Grace Lutheran Church-Hatfield

# LAYMEN PLAYMEN AUDITIONS FOR 2024 SHOW -- CRAZY FOR YOU

Laymen Playmen is proud to present for its 36<sup>th</sup> production the Broadway musical, **CRAZY FOR YOU** (Music and Lyrics by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin, Book by Ken Ledwig).

**Crazy for You** is a romantic comedy set in the 1930's which tells the story of a New York banker who is sent to Deadrock, Nevada to foreclose on a rundown theater. Of course he falls in love with the theater owner's daughter and the story revolves around them and saving the theater.

Auditions will be held at Lansdale United Methodist Church, 300 North Broad Street, Lansdale, PA 19446 on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00pm- 9:30pm and Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am–12:00 noon. All ages welcome. Additional audition information can be found on <u>www.laymenplaymen.org</u>. Please note change in location for auditions.

Show Dates for 2024 are April 19-21 and April 26-28.

There will also be an opportunity to learn some dancing! Two "Dance Workshops" will be held on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm and Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm at Lansdale United Methodist Church. No tap shoes or sneakers for these sessions- regular dress or character shoes are acceptable. Registration is required for these sessions. Information can be found at <u>www.laymenplaymen.org</u>.

For further questions, please contact Charla Bendas at cbendas2001@gmail.com.



Announcing 2024 Show & Auditions

Mark Your 2024 Calendar April 19-21st April 26-28th



# **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** <u>**Ongoing Prayers:**</u> Liz Bauer, Suzanne Colville, Merilyn Forst, 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 <u>Current Need</u> 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, 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 (friend of Peggy & Bruce Schmidt), Linda Renick, Joan Roeder.

**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), Madiafe Sheriff, Dale Moyer, Mabel Hoepfl, Hesh Lipton, Ethel Rappold, Galen Hosgood (Jaime Snyder's grandfather), Sandra Wood (friend of Andrea Roney), Helen Godshall, Jack Quigg (Frick/Clegg family).

*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 <u>deployed overseas</u>: Kyle Murphy, Air Force* 

# **EEC Food Cupboard**

The flood of neighbors in need is ongoing and your donations are extremely helpful in feeding MANY people that continue to show up each month for resources at the EEC food cupboard. Many thanks to all of you who share your blessings with our Hatfield neighbors!

Below, please find the most recent pantry shortages:

**Food:** Soup (no chicken noodle or tomato), Lasagna noodles, Peanut butter, Jelly, Flour, Sugar, Vinegar (quart size), Applesauce, Coffee, Brownie mix, Corn

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

Gift Cards: Grocery gift cards are always welcome

\*Clients cannot use government assistance 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: Oct 3, 17, and 31

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: Oct 10 and 24

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; <u>foodcupboard@yahoo.com</u>.

You can also call/email Carol MacDonald @215-872-0472; pcmacdonald125@gmail.com

# YOGA (Hatha) CLASS is in full swing; invite your friends!

The class meets in our fellowship hall every Wednesday through December 13 from 6:15-7:15 pm. Ages 18 and up: All levels are welcome! 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.

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.

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 <u>215-760-6297</u> if interested or just show up !



COFFEE HOUR:

Please join us every week in the atrium following worship for food and fellowship!

#### Soup-A-Thon! November 12th, 2023

This November, the INreach team would like to honor our veterans by sharing our Soup-a-thon proceeds with **Tails of Valor Paws of Honor (TOV)**, an organization that provides trained canine companions to veterans suffering from Post Traumatic Stress and Traumatic Brain Injury.

We will also use additional soups and proceeds to benefit our members who are experiencing challenges in their lives.

If you love to make soup, we'd love for you to sign up and drop off fresh soup the weekend of November 12th at Grace! We can also take soup that has recently been frozen. Recipes and containers will be available in the narthex starting in October.

Soup can be pre-ordered and will be \$7 per quart. Minestrone, Chicken Noodle, and Split Pea will be available for purchase. Please see signup sheets in the narthex.

Grace Lutheran Church			
Rev Nancy M Raabe, Pastor			
40 North Main Street	Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	Annual Blessing of the Animals	
Hatfield PA 19440-2905			
	Oct 29 <sup>th</sup>	Reformation Sunday	
GraceLutheranHatfield.org			
Facebook.com/GraceLutheranHatfield	Oct 31 <sup>st</sup>	Happy Halloween !	
Office Phone 215.855.4676			
Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator			
Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music			Ļ
Revin Fredicy, Winister of Music			3
Share 1			A
Stepping Stones 215.368.2052			
Jessica Moran, Director			
	View ou	r website by scanning this code:	

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