



# PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

January 2024

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

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

Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor

## FROM THE PASTOR: In the Name of Jesus



The church festival that commemorates the circumcision and naming of Jesus always falls on January 1. What better way to start the new year than by asking: Why DO we always pray in Jesus' name? Our prayers typically end, "...in Jesus' name we pray." Or, "we ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord."

Why is that necessary? Isn't a simple "Amen" enough? Doesn't God hear all our prayers regardless of how we conclude them?

Actually it is critical in Christian prayer to provide the context of Jesus' name for our petitions. Danish theologian Søren Kierkegaard, who fiercely believed that Christianity was not a philosophy or doctrine but a way of life, explained it this way:

A magistrate orders this or commands that in the name of the King. It naturally follows that what he commands must be the King's will—he cannot command his own will in the King's name. That same is true of praying in the name of Jesus, to pray in such a way that is in conformity with the will of Jesus. I cannot pray in the name of Jesus to have my own will.

"The name of Jesus is decisive: it means to pray in such a way that I dare name Jesus in it, to think of him and his holy will together with whatever I am praying for. Finally, when a magistrate gives an order in the name of the King it means the King assumes responsibility. So too with prayer in the name of Jesus; Jesus assumes the responsibility and all the consequences. He steps forward for us, steps into the place of the person praying.<sup>1</sup>

As we greet the New Year we have been conditioned to point ahead to resolutions, new habits, and healthier habits. Less sugar. More exercise. Out with the old and in with the new.

But in our prayer life we always return to what God has done to point the way forward. The name "Jesus" means "the Lord saves." In this baby lies the salvation of the world. To each of us this means salvation from thoughtless, careless practices we had allowed to overwhelm our lives. Jesus Christ is the Alpha and the

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<sup>1</sup> Kierkegaard, *Journals*, quoted and adapted from *For All the Saints: A Prayerbook for the Church, Vol. 1*, American Lutheran Publicity Bureau, 2003, p. 10.

Omega. In him we are bringing our past into the present to point us toward the future – a future in which life, not death, has the last word.

When we pray in Jesus' name, we bring this conviction into each petition. We pray in the confidence that he attends our every need, leads us where we need to go, and will never leave us. Praying in Jesus' name ensures that our prayers will be one aligned with God's will *for us* in the gift of his Son *for us*, now and forever.

And now, we may say: Amen!

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Nenny Raabe*



## ANNUAL MEETING

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

Grace Lutheran Church will hold its **Annual Meeting on Saturday, January 20 starting with a meal at 5 p.m.** All active members are eligible to participate and vote. A special letter announcing the main business of the meeting was mailed out in December. *Ministry team leaders, please submit your reports to Lynn by [date]. Make them interesting – as if you are telling a story!*

The main course of the meal will be provided by Chef Lou to give you a preview of the Soup Supper we are launching Thursdays starting February 15 (see page 6). You are invited to bring bread or a dessert. We look forward to good food and fellowship as we wrap up 2023 and look ahead to 2024!

### **FROM The Minister of Music:**

Hello friends, I hope your holiday was blessed and that you felt God's spirit in your hearts. My holiday plan at the time of writing this message is to reach out and talk to many of my friends and family over the next few weeks. Phone calls, not email or just a holiday card. To be connected and "interact." If I had the time, I'd love you call or visit all of you but here's a message for you in the New Year.

A new year has come, and with it brings promise of joy, love, peace, and all good things. May blessings abound, and hearts be renewed. May each day be filled with hope and light. And troubles and fears take their flight. Let love be the beacon that guides your way. And grace be the fragrance that fills each day. Let peace be the song that your heart sings. And forgiveness be the gift that it brings. Let gratitude be the anchor of your soul. And kindness be the seed that you sow. May this New Year bring growth and renewal. And strengthen the bonds of the faithful. Let it be a time of happiness and gain. And a season of blessing that remains. So let us rejoice together in this time of mirth. And celebrate the wonders of this new birth. For with each new year comes the promise of new. So let us embrace it with hearts pure and true.



## THANK YOU from Pastor Raabe

I was deeply moved by your outpouring of love and support this Christmas. Thank you for your amazing generosity. I am greatly blessed to be part of such a vibrant community of faithful people who desire to love and serve God with the best that they can bring. May God bless all the people of Grace and lead us forward in faith!



## WINTER WEATHER EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

So far this winter it's hard to imagine we'll have snow, but you never know! A reminder that we prefer not to cancel Sunday services due to weather. **Instead, please use your best judgment about whether to attend. Make safety your top priority!** You can either watch the livestream or, if even Pastor Raabe cannot make it to church, she will offer a shortened version of the service on Facebook Live at 10 a.m.



**INreach News:** THANK YOU to everyone who gave cookies & candies to our INreach Sweets for Sharing event on December 5th and THANK YOU to The Schmidts for once again hosting this wonderful event that Peggy created for INreach years ago. With lots of energy and laughter, the INreach team put together approx. 35 beautiful boxes of delicious treats for our Grace homebound members and staff. We could not do this without the many kind offerings of generous Grace members. We really appreciate your contributions!

The **INreach team is always looking for new members** who enjoy connecting with Grace members who are experiencing challenges in their life. It is not necessary to attend meetings in order to be a part of this ministry. If you have 10 minutes a month or 10 hours a week, there are ongoing opportunities to provide a meal, a ride, a visit, or just a connecting phone call. Come and join our very active team this year!



A very big THANK YOU to our Grace congregation for once again being so generous with your Angel Box donations! With your donations, and those from Bethany Bible Fellowship Church, the Hatfield American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, Laboratory Testing Inc., the Hatfield Women's Civic Club, and the Hatfield Lion's Club, we were able to provide our 4 families and both Hatfield food cupboards with much needed personal hygiene and household cleaning supplies again this year!

## WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

Ladies, I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's Day. Our December get-together was very nice. We had lunch at Red Lobster 🦞 since there was no meeting, and we are hoping maybe this could become a new tradition. Just to let you know, there is **NO** meeting in **January**, so I hope to see all of you in February. Everyone please take care and stay healthy. Barb

## Stepping Stones News

Happiest of Happy New Years! I hope everyone had an amazing Christmas and we can't wait for 2024. Stepping Stones will be closed on 1/15/2024 in observation of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will also be having our annual Read-a-thon school wide beginning 1/22; let us know if you're interested in sponsoring a reader! The read-a-thon is designed to encourage children of all ages to read (even guided reading by looking at pictures) and for adults to read to their children! Now would be a good time for you to pick up a good book

at home, too! We are so looking forward to the new calendar year and to the second half of our school year; it's going to go quick! -- Miss Jessica

## January 2024 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
<b>1/07/24</b> Baptism of Our Lord <b>8:00 am</b>	J. Swartz	D. Kunkel	P. Schmidt	Usher	D. Capanear & R. Smyrl	TBD
<b>10:30 am</b>	K. Stone	B. Hess	B. Krout	E. Krout	J. Krout & K. Deussing	
<b>1/14/24</b> <b>8:00 am</b>	N/A	N/A	K. Seiler	Usher	Ken & Karen Seiler	Diane Ball
<b>10:30 am</b>	N/A	N/A	The Sluggs	Usher	The Sluggs	
<b>1/21/24</b> <b>8:00 am</b>	J. Swartz	K. Seiler	W. Walter	Usher	The Walters	Bruce Schmidt
<b>10:30 am</b>	E. Woltmann	K. Stawasz	J. Snyder	C. Tula	The Tulas	
<b>1/28/24</b> <b>8:00 am</b>	N/A	N/A	K. Seiler	Usher	Ken & Karen Seiler	Don Capanear
<b>10:30 am</b>	N/A	N/A	J. Shaffer	Usher	K. Stawasz & MJ Moyer	

Council Offering/Lock-up for January is Diane Ball, 8:00am; Barbara Hess, 10:30am.

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

**2024 Serving Schedule Volunteers:** The 2024 serving schedule is available in the Narthex.

**Sponsors Needed:** Sign-up sheets are available for **2024 in the Narthex.**

Altar Flowers \$17/Sunday. Please check the box if you want the flowers or if you want them to go to a shut-in. Contact-Kathy Stawasz at [kathystawasz@gmail.com](mailto:kathystawasz@gmail.com) or 215.760.6297

Bulletins \$10/Sunday. Contact-Lynn at [graceassistant40@gmail.com](mailto:graceassistant40@gmail.com) or 215.855.4676

Eternal Candle \$5/Sunday. Contact-Lynn at [graceassistant40@gmail.com](mailto:graceassistant40@gmail.com) or 215.855.4676

### **MEMBER THANK YOU'S**

From Dee & Cindy Mancuso: "A big thank you to all the nice ladies that brought us cards and delicious cookies for Christmas!"

From Mary Lou & Ken Kratz: "Please extend our appreciation to everyone for the cards and goodies! Thank you very much and have a Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year."

***A special thank-you to our Sunday School for the "Gospel skit" at the 4 p.m. service on Christmas Eve!***

## January Calendar

- The Jesus Love Church (formerly Central Philadelphia) will be worshipping on Sundays at 12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and 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 January 3, 2024 to May 29, 2024 at **6:15 pm**

Mon Jan 1, 2024		<b>New Year's Day</b> <b>Office &amp; Stepping Stones Closed</b>
Tues Jan 2, 2024	7:00pm	Stitchers
<b>Sun Jan 7, 2024</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>
Tues Jan 9, 2024	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
<b>Sun Jan 14, 2024</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
<b>Mon Jan 15, 2024</b>		<b>Martin Luther King Day – Office &amp; Stepping Stones Closed</b>
Tues Jan 16, 2024	7:00pm	Council Meeting, Zoom option
<b>Sat Jan. 20</b>	5:00 pm	<b>Annual Meeting preceded by shared meal</b>
<b>Sun Jan 21, 2024</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>11:30am</b>	<b>Annual Congregational Meeting</b>
Fri Jan 26, 2024		Cub Pack Set Up
Sat Jan 27, 2024		Pinewood Derby
<b>Sun Jan 28, 2024</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>9:15am</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship</b>



### ***A HUGE Thank you for your generous gifts to the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project***

A team of Grace Elves packed up the wonderful gifts we collected from our members, friends of Grace and Cub Scout Pack 510 and Troop 51. You have helped to make Christmas special for four families. A BIG thanks to the families that helped to provide the funds for bicycles for two of the young girls who only wanted bicycles for Christmas. Also, a very special thank you to Al and Helen Lund and Al's office staff for filling two boxes of food items for each of our families. In addition, your items for the Angel Gifts were shared with our families and two area food cupboards. The sock bin was filled with 53 pairs of socks as well as a few hats and gloves to help the homeless men and women have warm hands and feet this winter. Special thanks to our team of expert organizers who helped pack all the gifts. Thank you so much for shopping and supporting our adopted families, the food cupboards, and Bread Drop. *The Giving in Service Team*



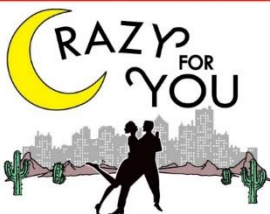
## Laurel House Valentine's Day Project 2024

The *Giving in Service Team* invites you to support our 2024 Valentine's Day Project. Laurel House provides shelter, care and counseling for abused women and children of Montgomery County. We will be collecting funds to purchase gift cards from the Boy Scouts which in turn helps the scouts. You may give any amount toward the purchase of \$25 gift cards which give parents the ability to buy gifts for their children, as well as other essential, basic needs. Look for the display in the narthex in early January!

**What is Laurel House?** Laurel House is a comprehensive domestic violence agency, providing supportive and preventative services throughout Montgomery County. Through the help of local churches and community groups, the women and children are provided with the funds to shop for personal care items and other necessities for daily life.



TICKET SALES BEGIN JANUARY 1st



With music and lyrics by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin, book by Ken Ludwig; Crazy for You is a romantic comedy set in the 1930's and is filled with amazing dance and memorable tunes!

It's that time of year again!!! The Laymen Playmen, Inc is preparing for its 36<sup>th</sup> production of George and Ira Gershwin's **Crazy for You**. This musical includes memorable tunes of *Bidin' My Time*, *Nice Work If You Can Get It*, *They Can't Take That Away From Me*, *I Got Rhythm*, *Embraceable You*, and *Someone To Watch Over Me*.

Check out the poster on page 8 for additional information. Please note the change of dates for this year. The production will be held on April 19-21 and 26-28, 2024. The location is Lansdale United Methodist Church, 300 N. Broad Street, Lansdale. To get tickets, you can either go

to [www.laymenplaymen.org](http://www.laymenplaymen.org) or call 215 368 9484, leave a message, and we will return your call.

## NEW TO GRACE: Thursday Soup Supper, starting in Lent

### By Lou Farrell

Starting on the first Thursday in Lent, February 15, our intention is to serve a healthy meal every Thursday night at Grace to people who are hungry, and if they are open to it, enjoy their fellowship. All food will be prepared fresh. Leftovers will be packaged for our guests to take with them.

Proposed menu:

- Green salad, mustard vinaigrette, or ranch dressing
- House vegetable puree soup, weekly special soup
- Bread, rolls
- Honey cake
- Fresh fruit



Costs: Startup expenditure will be under \$600. Ongoing expenses will be approximately \$30/week. Pots, pans, knives, cutting boards, serving utensils, sterno, and small wares will be purchased from Remo Supply in Norristown at a discount. Whenever possible, used equipment will be obtained. Seasonal vegetables will be purchased from Produce Junction in Hatfield or donated to us by Janet Hague at the Hatfield Food Cupboard from their surplus.

Bread will be donated by a local commercial bakery. Honey cake will be baked weekly to a standardized recipe by volunteers.

Fresh fruit will be donated by Janet Hague and Carol Bauer from the Garden of Health.

Startup and ongoing expenses will be obtained by community donations and other funding sources.

#### Staffing:

It is assumed that volume at the beginning will be low. Four congregation or community members will be needed for setup, service, dishwashing, cleanup and breakdown. As popularity grows, more will be needed. Past experience shows that the people who attend this type of supper often become key volunteers. A core group of efficient workers develops so that the burden is shared.

Shopping, transportation of goods, and overall coordination will be managed by Pastor Raabe and Lou Farrell. Talk to either of them if you want to get involved!



## 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, 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), Nancy Dustman (Joyce Salter's sister).

***In Current Need of Prayers:*** Cassi Lambert, Kristopher Yoder, Lisa Kane, Vickie West, Sandy Klinger, Dean Moore, Peg Malloy, 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, Helen Chappie (Liz Bauer's sister), Allie Moyer (Mary Jane Moyer's granddaughter), Angelina Trotter, 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), Joan Roeder, Sally Muntz, Lynn Pribbernow, Maya Kleinheidt.

***For all who grieve, including the family & friends of:*** John Weierman, Marilyn Forst, Hesh Lipton, Galen Hosgood (Jaime Snyder's grandfather), Sandra Wood (friend of Andrea Roney), Helen Godshall, Jack Quigg (Frick/Clegg family), Dan Black (Laymen Playmen), Kiffy Bergey (longtime Hatfield resident), Bob Holzerman.

***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: Thanks to everyone at Grace who supports our food cupboard at Emmanuel. Just this past Tuesday evening, 12/5/23, we distributed almost 2,300 lbs. of items to 27 families plus another 3 families who shopped on Monday. We project that by the end of 2023, we will have given over 32 tons of non-perishable food, produce, baked goods, and essential personal care products to about 180 different Hatfield families who visited at least once during the year. Faithful donors--and volunteers--from Grace are vital to our ministry. Thanks to all of you!

### **Current Needs:**

**Food items:** spaghetti sauce, salad dressing, mayonnaise, 100% fruit juice, white vinegar (1 quart size), canned pasta, tuna in OIL, pancake syrup, less common canned vegetable: lima beans, tomato paste, olives, mushrooms

**Household & Personal Care\*:** Shampoo (please tighten lids), paper towels, 13-gallon trash bags

**Gift Cards:** Grocery gift cards are always welcome too, especially ALDI & Giant!

Your non-perishable donations can be placed in our narthex bins by the conference room.

### **Upcoming distribution dates & times:**

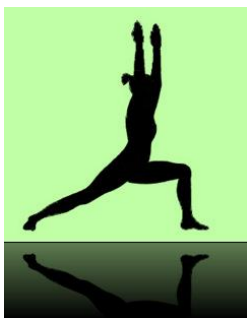
Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm: Jan 2, 16, and 30

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: Jan 9 and 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](mailto:foodcupboard@yahoo.com). You can also call/email Carol MacDonald @215-872-0472; [pcmacdonald125@gmail.com](mailto:pcmacdonald125@gmail.com)

## YOGA

Every Wednesday, January 3, 2024 - May 29, 2024 (no class 2-14-24) 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,  
COST: \$7/class (Make checks payable to: Grace Lutheran Church)

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.

## GRACE PEW AVAILABLE

Linda Kaler's neighbor has a pew in good condition from the old church that they want to give away. If you would like it, please call Linda at 215-771-4626.





## MAKE OUR GLUTEN-FREE COMMUNION BREAD

*Try your hand at our recipe. The key is to beat the batter well, and to spread the rounds with a flat knife.*

### Ingredients:

4 large eggs  
1/2 cups water  
1 tablespoon +1 tsp Honey  
1 tablespoon +1 tsp molasses  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 & 1/2 cups Pamela's Bread Mix, firmly packed  
1/2 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp baking soda



### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Beat eggs until light & fluffy.  
Add water, honey, molasses & olive oil.  
Add dry *ingredients* and beat well until the batter has thickened.

Line 2 baking sheets with parchment paper. Using an ice cream scoop, put 4 rounds on each baking sheet. With the flat side of a knife gently smooth out into rounds, 5-6 inches in diameter.

Bake 12-15 minutes, Cool on wire rack. Wrap in plastic wrap or baggies. Freeze until ready to use.

*Each bag of Pamela's GF bread mix, with this recipe, yields 16 rounds; each round serves approximately 15-20. I have been told that this recipe can be made with a standard GF flour mix but I have not tried it. The Pamela's mix adds extra flavor. – Nancy Raabe*

Pamela's Gluten Free Bread Mix can be purchased at  
<https://www.pamelasproducts.com/collections/baking-mixes/products/gluten-free-bread-mix>  
(or on Amazon, but they charge a lot more)

Bags of the mix are also available on request.

Good luck! 😊 – Pastor Raabe

*(From Carol Johnson-Hohol, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Marshall, WI, via Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA)*

**Grace Lutheran Church  
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**Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator  
Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music**

**Stepping Stones 215.368.2052  
Jessica Moran, Director**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**New Year's Day  
Office & Stepping Stones Closed**

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Martin Luther King Day  
Office & Stepping Stones Closed**

**January 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Annual Congregational Meeting after 10:30 worship**



*View our website by scanning this code:*



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