



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

April 2024

To Glorify God ♦ To Grow in Faith ♦ To Give in Service ♦ Together in Christ
www.gracelutheranhatfield.org Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor

FROM THE PASTOR:

Random Thoughts in a Post-Easter World



We have sung our joyful songs, we have praised God for the great victory in Christ, we have marveled the tapestry of conundrums – how Christ's victory



was won through the most abject human suffering, how death (Christ's) defeated death (Satan), how one of the cruellest mechanisms of human atrocity (the cross) was the instrument by which our salvation was secured, how God's great loss (his beloved Son) was our priceless gain. It is all so nonsensical that no human mind could have invented this story. It could only have come from God's heart!

We have crossed the threshold. We are on the other side of history's greatest miracle. Now what? Kick back, enjoy spring and look ahead to summer? Or....

We remember. We remember those in our congregation whose came before, whose faithful witness filled our worship and who now sing with the angels. We remember our own ancestors – parents, grandparents, teachers, mentors whose example of faithful living, and commitment to those who have less, always inspired us to do more. We remember God's chosen ones and their very human story that is so much like our own as we continue to turn away from God, get angry because we feel abandoned, and then finally realize it is we who have strayed -- because God always remains faithful. We remember the story of God's people, for it is our own.

We allow ourselves to be attended. How did Jesus survive his 40 days in the wilderness with no food? "He was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, *and angels attended him*" (Mark 1:12, NIV). These were fiercely strong angels. They had to be, to counteract the attacks on Jesus by Satan and his army of angels. What army, you say? Breaking news: Revelation 12:9 announces that after being defeated by the archangel Michael, "the deceiver of the whole world...was thrown down to the earth, *and his angels were thrown down with him.*" And I am willing to bet that, since then, they have found a way to greatly multiply because there seem to be plenty of demons for all of us. When you feel them circling around, poking you with their little pitchforks to get your attention, don't waste a moment: Call for help.

"Be pleased, O Lord to deliver me!
O Lord, make haste to help me!" (Psalm 70:1)



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Strive to be in solidarity with the world. “We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord...” (Romans 14:7-8a). God’s concern is for all people. Faith is not a purely individual matter. Yes, we all need time in prayer to focus our minds and hearts on God. Yes, we pray to God to increase our faith. But the purpose of our faith is to witness *to the world* concerning Christ’s victory and the life we have through him. That witness consists of seeing clearly what forces

humanity is contending with and proclaiming, just as Jesus did, that the old systems of power and privilege are dead ends. Power brokers may still persevere but only at their peril, because death (as in the abyss) lurks around every corner. We commit to standing with all who are oppressed by these systems in the conviction that love and not hate, compassion and not cruelty, are the banners under which we live as disciples of Christ.

Keep on telling the story. As we heard on Easter, the three women at the tomb *did* go on to tell the others what they saw at the empty tomb and then -- we have to assume -- quickly came to understand what the angel’s words had meant. had happened, Easter Sunday is over, but we are being called into the seven weeks of Easter and then some two dozen in Pentecost to tell the story of God’s great and mighty acts. Let’s travel those weeks together. I’ll see you in church!

Yours in Christ’s love,

Pastor Nanny Raabe

From the Minister of Music:

Recently I was able to create a space for our handbell tables. Each week after 10:30 worship there has been a rehearsal in preparation for a couple pieces for Easter Sunday and it's been a lot of fun! Can't wait for them to ring at Easter!

Do you have a piano at home? If so, you might notice how temperature and humidity changes each season can affect the tuning. Eventually, if it's not tuned every year, pianos start to dry out and won't hold pitch then they drop in pitch and might start sounding like one of those pianos from an old western movie. Or might make you think of ragtime music. While that can be appealing, not so much for accompanying hymns and choir. Fortunately, we have a very nice baby grand piano and in the past couple of years, a piano climate system was installed. This protects the piano from excess humidity or dryness. That also helps the piano stay in tune and sound its best because the sound board, made of thin spruce, remains solid and vibrant. It's the heart of piano and in good condition.

A small wall hanging in my parents’ kitchen which reads “Prayers go up and Blessings come down.” I think of that often and it reminds me that God is listening and responds, sometimes speaking to me through you and your kind and caring ways.

Thank you and bless each of you this Easter season.

Kevin

COMMUNITY NEWS

THURSDAY SOUP SUPPERS

We are delighted to be developing a regular group of guests for these free Thursday soup suppers. Enjoy wonderful homemade soups, fresh bread, salad, and our famous honey cake every Thursday starting at 5:30. Bring your friends and spread the word! Flyer in English and Spanish are available in the narthex.

RICE BOWL 2024

The *Giving in Service Team* would like to thank the congregation for supporting our **Rice Bowl project** during the Lenten Season. Our Rice Bowl offerings totaled **\$1586** as of Sunday, May 17th. The Rice Bowl continued through Palm Sunday, May 24th. Our gifts will be shared with **The Hatfield Food Cupboard** at Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church, **Manna on Main Street** in Lansdale, and **the World Hunger Appeal** through the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. These special offerings will touch our neighbors in our communities as well as those neighbors around the globe. *Gifts to the Rice Bowl may be given at any time.*



THE BREAD DROP schedule for April is: 4/2/2024 Priscilla Landis; 4/9/2024 Laura Kratz; 4/16/2024 Jean Delmuto; 4/23/2024 Emily Woltmann; 4/30/2024 Karen Seiler

YOUTH NEWS

COMMUNION INSTRUCTION: Join us on **Saturday April 20th from 10am to 3pm** for multigenerational communion instruction. We want our children who receive communion to understand the purpose and practice of this sacrament that is so central to our lives. Adults may appreciate a refresher as well! Grace has been using an instructional curriculum with the Sunday School aged youth that repeats every 3 years. It has age-appropriate materials for PreK, 1 - 3rd, 4 - 6th and teens. This year we decided to plan on a single day to do all the lessons and use the adult curriculum as well. Any children who have not had communion yet are then invited to have their First Communion on **Sunday April 28th**. RSVP to Laura Slugg mcslugg@mac.com.



The SUMMER YOUTH SERVICE CAMP will take place **June 24-27** from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. This collaboration between three churches of the Indian Valley Cluster (Grace, Emmanuel, and St. Paul's) invites youth in rising 5th through 12th grades to join together for three days of lively services projects, each day at one of the three churches, followed by a "fun" day on Thursday. There is no charge for this camp, so mark your calendars now!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL will be held here on July 14-17 from 5:30 – 8 p.m. The theme is SCUBA! We are delighted to be bringing this back. The theme is SCUBA! Registration opens on April 15. See the link on our web site under "Learn and Grow."



WELCA (Women of the ELCA)



Ladies, just a reminder there will be no Welca meeting in April but starting April 7th we will start collecting **Books for Babies**. These books will go from baby books to age 5 and they can be found at the \$1.25 store at a very good price. I will be making an announcement at church. Have a great April. Barb

Stepping Stones News

April and Spring are finally here! The sunshine has been missed so much and we are loving the warmer weather! Stepping Stones wants to take a moment and thank the Property Committee for helping to commandeer the painting project of our classrooms; they look so fresh and amazing! April is a bit of a quieter month for us, and we are so looking forward to it before we ramp up for the end of the school year. Have a blessed Spring!

Jessica Moran, Director

April 2024 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
4/07/24 8:00 am	L. Kratz	K. Seiler	R. Smyrl	Usher	R. Smyrl & D. Ball	B. Schmidt
10:30 am	K. Stone & T. Sarm	F. Stone	J. Shaffer	C. Tula	K. Stone & C. Tula	
4/14/24 8:00 am	N/A	N/A	K. Seiler	Usher	Seilers J. Krout & K. Deussing	Ken & Karen Seiler
10:30 am	N/A	N/A	R. Reilly	Usher		
4/21/24 8:00 am	L. Kratz	K. Seiler	Walters	Usher	Walters	D. Ball
10:30 am	K. Stone & T. Sarm	K. Stawasz	Sluggs	O. & Z. Plawa	Sluggs	
4/28/24 8:00 am	N/A	N/A	K. Seiler	Usher	Seilers	D. Capanear
10:30 am	N/A	N/A	R. Reilly	Usher	K. Stawasz & C. Tula	

Council Offering/Lock-up for April is: 8:00 am, Laura Kratz; 10:30 am, Crystal Tula

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm



It's that time of year again!!! The Laymen Playmen, Inc is preparing for its 36th production of George and Ira Gershwin's **Crazy for You**. 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 or call 215 368 9484, leave a message, and we will return your call.

April 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. Donations are accepted from 8am-7pm.
- Yoga every Wednesday from January 3, 2024 to May 29, 2024 at **6:15 pm**

Tues April 2, 2024 7:00pm Stitches
 Thurs April 4, 2024 5:30pm Thursday Soup Supper
 Sat April 6, 2024 9:30am Annual Grace Stitch-In

Sun April 7, 2024 **8:00am Worship/Communion**
 9:15am Sunday School
 10:30am Worship/Communion
 7:00pm Confirmation
 Tues April 9, 2024 7:00pm Property Team Meeting
 7:00pm Worship & Music Team Meeting
 Wed April 10, 2024 12:00pm Bible Study
 2:00pm Choir
 Thurs April 11, 2024 5:30pm Thursday Soup Supper

Sun April 14, 2024 **8:00am Worship**
 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Study
 10:30am Worship
 Tues April 16, 2024 7:00pm Council Meeting in person, Zoom option
 Thurs April 18, 2024 5:30pm Thursday Soup Supper
 Sat April 20, 2024 10:00am Communion Instruction in Fellowship Hall

Sun April 21, 2024 **8:00am Worship/Communion**
 9:15am Sunday School
 10:30am Worship/Communion
 7:00pm Confirmation
 Tues April 23, 2024 6:30pm INReach
 Wed April 24, 2024 12:00pm Bible Study
 2:00pm Choir
 Thurs April 25, 2024 5:30pm Thursday Soup Supper

Sun April 28, 2024 **8:00am Worship**
 9:15am Sunday School and Bible Study
 10:30am Worship

YOGA continues at Grace 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). Contact Kathy Stawasz at [215-760-6297](tel:215-760-6297) with any questions.

A Word from the Giving to God Team and the Offering Counters

Thank you very much for your generous giving to Grace Lutheran Church and its ministries this year. For those of you using envelopes for giving, you've noticed the change from two envelopes to one envelope system. There are a few things you can do to make it easier for the Offering Counters as they complete this task each Monday:

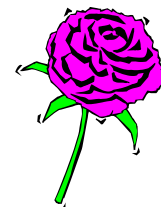
1. Please don't use Scotch tape unless you need to. The envelopes are designed to open easily. There's no need to tape them unless you're enclosing a large amount of loose change. Last year's envelopes had poor glue, and frequently did not stick, however, this year we have made sure that we have returned to the quality envelopes.
2. Please mark the outside of the white envelope with the amount you're enclosing, and mark clearly the dollar amount you intend for each of the three categories. Don't use checkmarks or percentages. The counters have been known to miscount. Writing the amount on the envelope helps us avoid mistakes.
3. If you leave a white envelope blank, the entire amount will be counted towards the General Fund. If that's what you intended, that's fine. But if you want it to go to the designated funds, please use the breakdown. We don't want to guess.
4. It's OK to write one check for several envelopes. Just be sure to write amounts on every envelope and attach them all together. Paper clips work well. Use staples only if you must.
5. If you have envelopes, please use them if possible. This simplifies the tracking and crediting of your generous donations. If you don't have access to your envelopes, or just want to use a plain envelope, please write your envelope number on the envelope if you recall it, but at a minimum, include your full name. If you don't have envelopes, you can call the office and request them.
6. You are welcome to use electronic giving if you prefer, and we appreciate those that use this method of giving. It also simplifies the counting process. You can contact the office, look at our website, or see the information in Grace Notes about this method of giving.

We gratefully accept gifts in all forms. Our procedures are based on the envelope system so that the gifts can be credited to you for tracking and year end giving statements. We'll continue to accept gifts with notes on odd bits of paper, but it all goes faster and with fewer errors if you use your envelopes, reference your envelope numbers, or use electronic giving.

Thank you again for your continued generosity.

Giving to God & Offering Counters

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12th



Honoring and remembering our mothers is a Grace Church Tradition. Pink Carnations honor our mothers and White Carnations remember our mothers who are no longer with us.

The funds from the sale of the carnations are used to support **Laurel House**, a local women's shelter for those who are victims of domestic violence. Laurel House is a Montgomery County organization that works to end domestic violence and provides housing and education for the victims of domestic violence. Our gifts to this agency will help the women and their families in our area. See the display in the narthex for order forms or use the form in this newsletter.

Orders are due by Sunday, May 5th

An order form is included in this newsletter. Please put your order in an envelope marked Mother's Day Carnations. Place it in the offering plate or the basket in the narthex. Orders may also be mailed to the church office or placed in the mailbox outside the main entrance to Grace.

EEC Food Cupboard

A message from Janet Hague: Last month 80 Hatfield families visited our food cupboard, receiving just over 5,200 lbs. of food and essential care items. Over a dozen volunteers helped to make this possible. More volunteers are always needed and welcome!

Current Needs:

Food items: Canned pasta (SpaghettiOs, etc.) with or without meat, rolled oats (regular or quick cooking), tomato paste, baked beans, Tuna in OIL, vinegar (quart size), cooking oil, ground coffee, sugar, flour

Household & Personal Care*: Shampoo & conditioner (please tighten lids)

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: Apr 2, 16, 30

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: Apr 9 & 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. You can also call/email Carol MacDonald @215-872-0472; pcmacdonald125@gmail.com

SPRING STITCH-IN

Come and join us for a day of 'stitching'! Bring a project and join the fun as we spend time working on new projects or tackling those unfinished projects! Or – come and learn a new craft from a fellow 'stitcher'! Any type of stitching will do – Embroidery, Cross Stitch, Punch Needle, Crochet, Knitting, and Rug Hooking to name a few.

DATE: Saturday, April 6, 2024

TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **Doors Open at 9:30 a.m.

COST: Free Will Offering

PLACE: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church





For Reservations and/or Questions, please contact Peggy Schmidt at (peggy@tailsoftheafterlife.com, 267-222-8449) or Wendy Walter at (wwalter@verizon.net - 215-721-1418)

**Door Prizes & Raffles* Snacks, Drinks & Lunch will be provided*

WINE EVENT: May 4 at 7 pm



Plan to attend the **WINE EVENT** on **Saturday, May 4** at 7 PM in the Grace Fellowship Hall. The event will feature 3 Chardonnays and 3 Zinfandels for you to taste, rate, and describe. Your wine trivia prowess might send you home with a bottle of the wine you have tasted. Light snacks will be provided, compliments of our resident Chef Lou. Cost of the event is \$20 per person if you will be tasting the wine or \$5 if you just want to join in the fun. Please sign up no later than Sunday, April 28th on the display in the narthex and pay in either cash or a check payable to Frank Stone. The event is open to your friends too.

PRAYER LIST

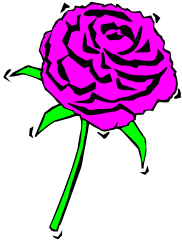
Please let Pastor Raabe or Lynn know if you would like someone added to this list, or if someone you have added is no longer in need of urgent prayers.

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), Anita Spisak (Ken's mom), Chuck Slugg, Christopher Humlhanz (Jaime Snyder's cousin), Betty Poling (June Detweiler's sister), Sally Muntz, Lynn Pribbernow, Jenn Lowry (friend of the Raabes), Regi Gambino (friend of Lynn Plawa-Oxenford), Barbara Heinrichs (friend of Mary Jane & Chuck Slugg), Cassie Williams (the MacDonalds' daughter), Marcia Williams (Carol MacDonald's sister), and Jessica Davis (the MacDonalds' niece), P. Stringfellow (friend of Barb Hess), R. Weit (father of Pastor Raabe's friend, J. Weit).

For all who grieve, including the family & friends of: 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, Marilyn Forst, Richard Badman, Amanda Magenheim (Lindsay Stone's college roommate), Joan Roeder, Dawn Pier, Roger Smith (friend of the Shaffer family), Janet Williams (Carol MacDonald's mother), and Jacob Strohle (member of the extended Barry/Joanne Moyer family).

For those in active duty military service: Jessica Murphy, Air Force; Matthew Smyrl, Army; Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard; Eric Gutsche (Janice Swartz's grandson); Cole Dempsey, Air Force (Laura Kratz's grandson). ***For active military deployed overseas:*** Kyle Murphy, Air Force; Robert McNulty, Marines



Mother's Day Carnations

Single Stem Carnations - \$2.50 for one carnation

Orders due Sunday, May 5th

Forms may be placed in the offering plate or display basket, mailed to Grace Church, or placed in the mailbox outside the main entrance of Grace. **The proceeds benefit the families of Laurel House.**

YOUR NAME _____

White Carnations

(in memory of): Number ordered _____ x \$2.50 = _____

Pink Carnations

(in honor of): Number ordered _____ x \$2.50 = _____

TOTAL = \$ _____
____ cash ____ check

*Checks should be made out to Grace Lutheran Church – **memo carnations***

Flowers may be taken home after the worship services on May 12th

PLEASE FILL IN:

In **memory** of: _____

FROM: _____

In **honor** of: _____

FROM: _____

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



Thursday Soup Suppers continue at 5:30pm

April 6th Annual Grace Stitch-In

**April 20th Communion Instruction in Fellowship Hall
(lunch included)**



View our website by scanning this code:

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