



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

May 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: WORSHIP MATTERS

When I was promoting our Communion Instruction Event (April 20) a few weeks ago, I mentioned that perhaps some of you might want answers to questions such as: Why can't we use beer and pretzels for communion? Why do we discourage the practice of virtual communion via livestream?



In response, a few of you mentioned that you *would* be interested in hearing those answers. That made me think that perhaps there are many other worship-related things you have been wondering about: Why do we do what we do, and how and when we do it?

With some helpful resources from our Churchwide office (elca.org), I came up with the idea for a summer forum **on the fourth Sunday of every month** from 10:15-11 a.m., following our 9:15 summer service. We'll be in the fellowship hall, but you may enjoy coffee and treats without participating in the discussion. (A few tables will be set up on the veranda if you prefer to go outdoors.) The tone will be casual – I want to hear what YOU have to say. We may not get to all these topics on each fourth Sunday, but we'll try. Bring all your questions!

WORSHIP MATTERS:

A Fourth Sunday summer forum from 10:15-11 a.m.

May 26: The Church Year, Observances, and the Worship Space

How do congregations recognize secular occasions and holidays in the liturgy?

What are Rogation Days?

What is a Commemoration and how to we celebrate them?

What is a lesser festival? When and how do we celebrate them?

Are flags appropriate in church?

How can our worship services be more welcoming to people with disabilities?

How can video projection be used in worship?

How do we make decisions about art and materials used in worship?

How do we use the Paschal Candle?

What are some considerations on art and environment for worship?

What components are needed for a video projection system?

What is the eternal flame?

What is the meaning and use of liturgical colors?

Minister of Music	2
Community News	3
Youth News	3
WELCA & Stepping Stones	4
Serving Schedule	5
Calendar	6
Giving to God Team	7
Mother's Day	7
Food Cupboard	8
Prayer List	8
Carnation Order Form	9

June 23: Worship, Liturgy, and the Body

What is our pattern of worship?
What are the biblical roots of worship?
How can lay people participate in worship leadership?
How do we craft the Prayers of Intercession?
What is the Greeting of the Peace?
What are vestments and paraments and why are they used?
How do we involve children and youth in worship?
How do we lead liturgy with grace and confidence?
How do we use the body in worship?
How does worship involve all our senses?
Who is a presiding minister?

July 28: Holy Communion

At what age do congregation members receive communion?
How can we provide for communion of the ill, homebound and imprisoned?
What are the elements and vessels and how are they used?
Where do we keep sacramental elements?
Why do we discourage the celebration of "virtual" communion (via livestream) and "drive-up" communion?
How do we distribute Holy Communion?
What kinds of bread are used in Holy Communion?
What kinds of wine are used for Holy Communion?
Why and how do we move to weekly communion?

August 25: Life Passages

Can a civil marriage be blessed in church?
How can the centrality of baptism be renewed?
How do Lutherans regard organ donation and cremation?
How do rites of social and fraternal societies relate to Lutheran funeral practice?
What are baptismal festivals?
What are columbaria and memorial gardens?
What are the marks of a Christian funeral?
What are the practices for remembering and affirming baptism?

Yours in Christ's love,

Pastor Nancy Raabe



From the Minister of Music:

Wee little ones made my day! On April 10th I had the pleasure of leading Stepping Stones' Wednesday Chapel time as Pastor was away for the day. These children are ages 1-4 and all very interested in their time each week to "go to Chapel".

I set up an audio recording of chirping birds, which played throughout our time together. But.. the recording was playing softly in the background so if we wanted to hear the birds,

everyone needed to be very quiet. I decided to talk about trees with the children. All kinds of thoughts and questions were shared, and we talked about many things we make from trees and how important it is to care for trees. We then sang a song from Mr. Roger's Neighborhood called "Tree, Tree, Tree" a few times! At the end of our time together the children all stood up and pretended to be trees, stretching their arms toward the sky. And as we said goodbye, many continued singing the tree song. What joy that brief time gave me!

Blessings to you all and God bless trees and all children.

Kevin

COMMUNITY NEWS



THURSDAY SOUP SUPPERS

If you haven't experienced our Soup Suppers yet, we warmly invite you to join in. We regularly welcome members from the neighborhood along with members of Grace; there is always someone new each week. Soups are freshly made by our resident chefs, and the bread is also fresh from Hearth Bakery. Stop in at 5:30 any Thursday to experience new community being formed.



THE BREAD DROP schedule for May is: 5/7/2024 Jessica Moran; 5/14/2024 Priscilla Landis; 5/21/2024 Laura Kratz; 5/28/2024 Jean Delmuto

YOUTH NEWS

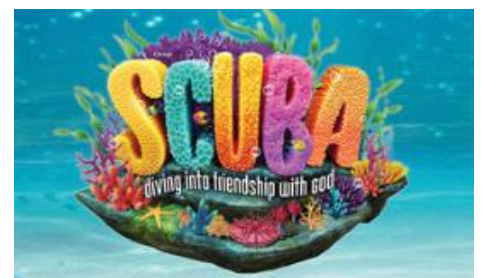


CONFIRMATION SUNDAY takes place on **June 2**. We are delighted to be confirming Elijah Krout, Jayson Tula and Lennon Kaler. You'll see them taking leading parts in our worship service that day along with the rest of our lively confirmation class.

The third annual 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, so plan to be with us for this great time of service and team building.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL here at Grace on July 14-18 from 5:30 – 8pm. The theme is "Scuba: Diving into Friendship with God." Go to this link to register --

<https://vbspro.events/p/gracehatfield> -- or see our website for more information under "Learn and Grow." We are delighted to be offering this again, thanks to our VBS director this year, Annette Dittman!



WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

Ladies, May 1st is our next meeting. We have a few things to discuss so I hope you will be able to attend, and oh yes, I almost forgot, we will be having lunch 🍔 🍷 at the Apple Cafe at the Souderton Mennonite Home. Hope to see you!
Barb



April 7th to May 12th

Welca is sponsoring Books for Babies again this year; this is part of the Hatfield Community Christian Coalition. We are supporting Mitzvah Circle's Diaper Bag Project and also our two food cupboards. The books requested are for infants through 10 years old, **new and gently used**. There is only 1 book for every 300 families under the poverty line in America. Please help us to help those in crisis. Thank you ! Barb Watts

Stepping Stones News



May the sun shine in! We missed the warm weather and the sun at Stepping Stones! Before we know it the school year will be coming to a close and the summer months will be upon us. During the month of May Stepping Stones is excited to host Mother's Day Tea on 5/10 as well as Montgomery County Association for the Blind for free Preschool Vision Screenings on 5/7. We are also looking forward to our spirit days like Pajama Day, Pretzel Day, and Star Wars Day! Please don't forget that Stepping Stones is closed on Monday, May 27th for Memorial Day and will re-open on 5/28. Have a fantastic May!

Jessica Moran, Director

Rice Bowl 2024

Update to the Rice Bowl offering as of Easter, March 31st, total gifts were **\$2273**. Thank you to the congregation for support of the Rice Bowl Project. *The Giving in Service Team*



YOGA continues at Grace every Wednesday, January 3, 2024 - May 29, 2024 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: GLC)

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.



WINE EVENT

May 4 at 7 pm

Grace Fellowship Hall

\$20 to taste \$5 (no tasting) to join the fun

Win Wine with Wine Trivia!

Registration Forms in Narthex

Contact Frank Stone or email fstone@comcast.net

May 2024 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
5/05/24 8:00 am	J. Swartz	B. Schmidt	P. Schmidt	Usher	R. Smyrl & D. Capanear	D. Ball
10:30 am	E. Woltmann	J. Snyder	T. Sarm	L. Kaler	K. Stone & K. Stawasz	
5/12/24 8:00 am	N/A	N/A	The Seilers C.	Usher	The Seilers Carol & Paul MacDonald	B. Schmidt
10:30 am	N/A	N/A	MacDonald	Carol M.	MacDonald	
5/19/24 Pentecost 8:00 am	J. Swartz	B. Schmidt	P. Schmidt	Usher	R. Smyrl & D. Capanear	K. Stone
10:30 am	E. Woltmann	F. Stone	J. Tula	C. Tula	C. Tula & K. Stawasz	
5/26/24 Holy Trinity Begin 1 service 9:15 am	TBD	K. Seiler	K. Seiler	O. Plawa	K. Seiler & D. Kunkel	TBD

Council Offering/Lock-up for May is: Don Capanear

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

SYNOD ASSEMBLY takes place this year May 3-4 at Franconia Mennonite Church. Thanks to our delegates this year, Barb Hess and Tom Salter. With Pastor Raabe, they will be casting their votes for a new bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA. Hear all about it on Sunday, May 5 -- or at the Wine Tasting event.



Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

May 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**

Thurs May 2, 2024 5:30pm Thursday Soup Supper

Sat May 4, 2024 6:00- 10 pm Wine Tasting Event

Sun May 5, 2024 8:00am Worship/Communion

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Worship/Communion

7:00pm Confirmation

Tues May 7, 2024 7:00pm Stitches

Wed May 8, 2024 1:00pm Choir

Thurs May 9, 2024 5:30pm Thursday Soup Supper

6:30pm Stepping Stones Committee Meeting, in person

Sun May 12, 2024 8:00am Worship – Happy Mother’s Day

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Worship

Tues May 14, 2024 7:00pm Property Meeting

7:00pm Worship & Music Team Meeting

Thurs May 16, 2024 5:30pm Thursday Soup Supper

Sun May 19, 2024 8:00am Worship/Communion -- Pentecost

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Worship/Communion

Tues May 21, 2024 7:00pm Council Meeting, Zoom option

Thurs May 23, 2024 5:30pm Thursday Soup Supper

Sun May 26, 2024 Begin One Service

9:15am Worship/Communion – Holy Trinity

10:15am 4th Sunday Summer Forum; The Church Year, Observances, & the Worship Space

Mon May 27, 2024 **Memorial Day**

Office & Stepping Stones Closed

Wed May 29, 2024 6:15pm Last day of Yoga until September

Thurs May 30, 2024 5:30pm Thursday Soup Supper

Summer Wednesday Evening Fellowship Gatherings

Stay tuned to Grace Notes and the June Parish News about these fun and delicious picnics!!
If you would like to host one of our picnics, please contact Kay Stone - kaystone@comcast.net.





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.

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

EEC Food Cupboard

A message from Janet Hague: "With your help, the food cupboard assisted 84 families (368 individuals) in the past month. Thank you!!!" This amazing outreach could not happen without your ongoing generous giving of food and household products. Volunteers during distributions and shelving are always needed so please reach out to Janet if you can offer some time.

Current Needs:

Food items: 100% fruit juice, dry pasta (no spaghetti or egg noodles), pasta sauce, tomato paste, baked beans, canned fruit (no pears or cranberry), canned lima beans, canned spinach, olives, GROUND coffee, sugar, ketchup, mayonnaise, gelatin and pudding packets

Household & Personal Care*: Body Wash, Shampoo, Conditioner (please tighten ALL 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: May 7 & 21

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: May 14 & 28

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; pccmacdonald125@gmail.com

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.

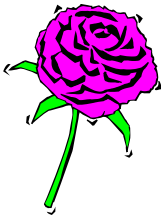
In Need of Ongoing Prayers: Liz Bauer, Suzanne Colville, Bob Kaler, Peggy Long, Hazel Mascaro, Gerry Mason (Richard Badman's son), Pam Matolicz, Bob Rufe (Mary Jane Moyer's brother), Joyce Salter, Nancy Sellers, Bailey Vinson (Liz Bauer's great-granddaughter), Nancy Dustman (Joyce Salter's sister).



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), Lisa and Laurie Ronan (the MacDonalds' neighbors), 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, Angelina (Mascaro) Trotter, Alice Ciarrocca (friend of Karen Heacock & Phyllis McKeefrey), Anita Spisak (Ken Seiler's mom), Chuck Slugg, Christopher Humlhanz (Jaime Snyder's cousin), Betty Poling (June Detweiler's sister), Sally Muntz, Linda Pribbernow, Jenn Lowry (friend of the Raabes), Regi Gambino (friend of Lynn Plawa-Oxenford), Cassie Karcher (the MacDonalds' daughter), Audrey MacDonald (the MacDonalds' daughter-in-law), 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), Annette Beyer (friend of the Reillys), Tricia O'Neill (member of the Stepping Stones family), Ed Irzyk (L. Pribbernow's brother-in-law).

For all who grieve, including the family & friends of: Dan Black (Laymen Playmen), Kiffy Bergey (longtime Hatfield resident), 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), Jacob Strohleim (member of the extended Barry/Joanne Moyer family), John Josten (Frank & Kay Stone's neighbor), Buzz Benson (Karen Seiler's uncle).

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 Carnation \$2.50

Orders due by May 5th

Please place orders in the offering plate or the basket in the narthex

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 either service on May 12th

PLEASE FILL IN:

In **memory** of: _____

FROM: _____

In **honor** of: _____

FROM: _____

Proceeds will benefit the mothers and children of Laurel House

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Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music
Stepping Stones 215.368.2052
Jessica Moran, Director



Thursday Soup Suppers continue at 5:30pm

- May 4th Wine Tasting Event
- May 12th Happy Mother's Day !
- May 19th Pentecost
- May 26th ***Begin One Service at 9:15 am—Holy Trinity***
4th Sunday Summer Forum after worship;
The Church Year, Observances, & the Worship Space
- May 27th Memorial Day
Office & Stepping Stones Closed

View our website by scanning this code:



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