



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

June 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:



Wings Like Eagles

I don't know if you are like me, but sometimes I just get tired. Waking up too early in the morning, making my way through a long day, going to bed too late at night, tossing and turning until I decide, OK, I might as well read more about John Adams (the current late-night book I have going).

It could be an endless cycle of exhaustion, as a result of which at some point we might just fall apart, if not for one thing...no, not coffee (although that is critical)...but rather, the power of God. The verses from Isaiah 40 that we love so much go like this:

²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard?

*The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.*

*²⁹He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.*

*³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;*

*³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.*

What I find fascinating about this passage is that the strength that God gives us does not depend on age. Without God's power, Isaiah says, even the young will fall exhausted. But those who wait for God's power -- meaning those who embrace it, invoke it, open hearts and minds to it -- will be renewed. And not only renewed just to make it through the day without collapsing, but renewed so we can soar through our day, with wings like eagles!

How do I access this power, you may be wondering? Simply by raising your hands to the heavens and asking God to pour down the Holy Spirit on you. You can use all or part of the great Pentecost prayer, which is good for any day and any time:

“Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth.”

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Or just "Come, Holy Spirit." Or whatever words you choose! God hears all our prayers. This renewal is not a matter of bodily strength, which for some of us only goes so far due to physical limitations, but of spiritual strength. You will be astonished by what can happen to your spiritual life if you simply bring yourself into God's presence each morning, remember to talk to God as the day goes along, and thank God for all the blessings of the day as you prepare for bed.

As the Holy Spirit sweeps into our lives this Pentecost season, it's important to remember that God's Spirit is directing us and not our own human will. We may have a plan each day for what we want to get accomplished. We may have a plan for the season, or for the year. But if things happen which interrupt that plan, the key is to discern the source of that interruption. Is it from God, or not? Is this a change of path that brings life, or suffocates life? It is something that inspires you to think in new ways, or drives you more deeply into a rut you are already in? If the former, embrace it; if the latter, do all you can do avoid it.

Opening ourselves to the Holy Spirit requires constant discernment in this same way. Each day is a new creation. We are called to step into it in a way that proclaims the same new life that Jesus, in his resurrected and ascended body, gives us with every waking breath.

Lord, send forth your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth!

Yours in Christ's love,

Pastor Nancy Raabe

From the Minister of Music:

In the coming weeks, I'll be traveling back to my hometown. I'm eager to visit with family and friends I haven't seen in years. Part of my journey will include a trip to my family church, which is currently closed for renovations. I'm looking forward to reconnecting with a pastor I knew as a teenager, who is coincidentally serving the church until July.

I've also been invited to consider playing a concert on a new pipe organ at the local college, which would be a welcome homecoming for me. As the summer approaches, I'm planning ahead and looking forward to introducing some new music for our services. While the choir won't rehearse over the summer, I invite anyone to join me in the music area each week.

If you have any travel plans this summer, I wish you safe travels and an enjoyable time. I'm excited for the opportunity to connect with my hometown and share new musical experiences with you.

I'm thinking at the moment of a praise song from my youth by a well-known song writer, Daniel Schulte. (The first verse)

Though the mountains may fall and the hills turn to dust, Yet the love of the Lord will stand. As a shelter for all who will call on His name, Sing the praise and the glory of God.

Peace to you!

Kevin



THE BREAD DROP schedule for June is: 6/4/2024 Emily Woltmann; 6/11/2024 Jessica Moran; 6/18/2024 Karen Seiler; 6/25/2024 Priscilla Landis



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.

YOUTH NEWS

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY is June 2

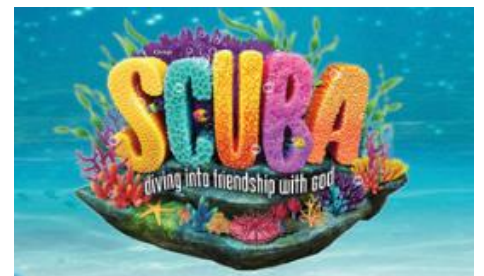
On June 2 we will be confirming Elijah Krout, rising 10th grade, Jayson Tula, rising 9th grade, and Lennon Kaler, rising 8th grade. Pastor Raabe invited Lennon to join this graduating class because of her rapid progress over the past year, her strong leadership skills, and the fact that these three youth have been together for a long time so appreciate the chance to graduate as a group. We look for these three young people to continue to be involved in life at Grace, especially through our Youth Group.

Please plan to be with us that day to support them, to experience their faith statements, and to affirm the work of the entire 2023-2024 Confirmation class, which also includes Olivia Herculini, Cristiano Tula and Lincoln Kaler.



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 service 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. On Grace's day, June 24, we will be working with puppies at Dog Town Rescue, playing bingo with residents at Paradise Manor, and helping at the EEC Food Cupboard. Sign up here – spaces are limited! bit.ly/3w7hweU Free and open to the entire community.

REGISTER NOW 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!



OTHER GRACE AND STEPPING STONES NEWS

WELCA (Women of the ELCA)

Ladies, our next get together is on June 5th and Joyce & Tom Salter invited us once again to come to their house for our annual picnic. The time is 11:00 am and please bring a salad or dessert. Their address is 51 North Wayne Avenue in Hatfield, phone number is 215-855-3045. Hope to see everyone. Thank you, Barb

STEPPING STONES

Summer months happen so fast! Our Perky Penguins are so excited to graduate on June 12th! This graduating class is special to many of us as it includes the children of many of our staff members including my own daughter, Penny, who will be the first kid to attend Stepping Stones from the Little Lambs Infant Room opening in 2019 all the way through to graduation with the Perky Penguins. We can't wait to celebrate the successes of all of our Penguins and wish them the best of luck as they look forward to Kindergarten. We are also looking forward to Pretzels with Pop, our Father's Day Celebration, on June 14th, as well as the start of water play on June 17th. Please remember that Stepping Stones is closed on Wednesday, June 19th, for Juneteenth but we will re-open on 6/20 as normal.

Have a cool Summer!

Jessica Moran, Director



YOGA takes a break for the summer ☺

Looking forward to seeing you again in September!

Yoga is for 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.

Summer Wednesday Evening Picnics

Grace Summer Picnics will be held in June, July and August!

Dinner will be served at **6:30 pm**.

Bring your favorite **picnic dish** to share and a lawn chair or blanket.

If you have a favorite **outdoor game** to share, bring it too.

Event is rain or shine!!

Dates for our picnics: June 26th July 10th July 24th August 7th

If you would like to host, please contact Kay Stone at 267-218-2124 or kaystone@comcast.net



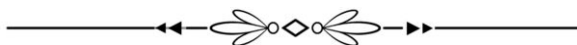
June 2024 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
6/02/24 9:15 am	S. Wieland	B. Schmidt	B. Krout	Usher	J. Krout & K. Deussing	Bruce Schmidt
6/09/24 9:15 am	K. Stone	F. Stone	F. Stone	Usher	R. Smyrl & D. Capanear	Diane Ball
6/16/24 9:15 am	S. Wieland	R. Reilly	R. Reilly	Usher	R. Smyrl & B. Schmidt	Carol MacDonald
6/23/24 9:15 am	TBD	TBD	D. Kunkel	Usher	D. Ball & R. Smyrl	Kay Stone
6/30/24 9:15 am	TBD	TBD	C. MacDonald	Usher	C. & P. MacDonald	Don Capanear

Council Offering/Lock-up for June is: Tom Salter
Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

Council highlights for May

- Approved the flatscreen project for the sanctuary for a cost of up to \$7,500
- Approved the move to weekly communion
- Agreed to host the final church picnic of the summer on August 7





Although there are no beaches in the forecast, **Pastor Raabe** wants to share her summer schedule with you.

On **June 3-9** she is traveling with a friend to Iceland in part to visit an old college friend who is principal horn of the Iceland Symphony. That week was chosen so that she could hear the orchestra perform Mahler's Third Symphony. She and her friend may see a few geysers, waterfalls, and glaciers as well. (Sorry, Barb Watts, no fermented shark on the menu.)

From **June 30- July 6** she will be taking a week of continuing education at the Chautauqua Institute in New York state, where the week's focus is on artificial intelligence. She will be staying at the Lutheran House and participating in worship services there.

From **July 21-26** she is taking a second week of vacation for the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, of which she is President. She will be presiding at the opening Eucharist and leading the annual face-to-face board meeting.

From **September 20-26** she will be taking a third week of vacation to travel to France (the Toulouse area) to visit her sister.

Pastors covering in her absence:

June 9, July 21, September 22: Pastor John Berntsen

June 30: Pastor Karen Sease

Please be on hand to give Pastor Berntsen and Pastor Sease warm welcomes on those dates!

June 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.

Sun June 2, 2024 **9:15am** **Worship/Communion – Confirmation Sunday**
Tues June 4, 2024 7:00pm Stitches
Thurs June 6, 2024 5:30pm Thursday Soup Supper

Sun June 9, 2024 **9:15am** **Worship/Communion**
 Tues June 11, 2024 7:00pm Property Team Meeting
 7:00pm Worship & Music Team Meeting
 Wed June 12, 2024 3:00pm Stepping Stones Graduation Ceremony in the Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall
 Thurs June 13, 2024 5:30pm Thursday Soup Supper

Sun June 16, 2024 **9:15am** **Worship/Communion – Happy Father’s Day**
 Mon June 17, 2024 7:00pm Stepping Stones Committee Meeting, via Zoom
 Tues June 18, 2024 7:00pm Council Meeting, Zoom option
 Wed June 19, 2024 Stepping Stones closed for the Juneteenth Holiday
 Thurs June 20, 2024 5:30pm Thursday Soup Supper

Sun June 23, 2024 **9:15am** **Worship/Communion**
 10:15am **4th Sunday Forum**
 4:00pm **Healing Service**
 Mon June 24, 2024 8:30am Summer Youth Service Camp begins – **Grace’s Day**
 Tues June 25, 2024 6:30pm INReach Meeting
 Thurs June 27, 2024 5:30pm Thursday Soup Supper

Sun June 30, 2024 **9:15am** **Worship/Communion**



OUR COMMUNION PRACTICE

On the recommendation of the Worship and Music team at its May 8 meeting and approval by the Council on May 21, Grace is moving to the practice of weekly communion starting this month.

There are many reasons to support this move.



FORGIVENESS: In his Small Catechism, Martin Luther explains that in the words “given for you” and “shed for you” in the Sacrament of the Altar give us forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. He once said that he would take communion hourly, if he could, because he needed what it offered.

ANCIENT PRACTICE: Weekly communion has also been the practice of the Christian church since its earliest days. The Didache, a training manual for new churches, written around A.D. 50-70 says, “Every Lord’s day, gather yourselves together, and break bread, and give thanksgiving after having confessed your transgressions.”

CONTEMPORARY PRACTICE: Weekly communion is the common practice in the vast majority of ELCA congregations. This is one of the ways we define ourselves as a church. Article VII of the Augsburg Confession states that the Christian church “is the assembly of believers among whom the gospel is purely preached, and the holy sacraments are administered according to the gospel.”

WITNESS: In this sacrament we testify to Jesus’ death, resurrection, and final return. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 11: *For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.*

WE ARE FED: At the Lord’s table, we are refreshed, nourished, strengthened, and encouraged by taking the real presence of Jesus’ body and blood “in, with, and under the elements” into our own.

WE ARE UNITED: Weekly communion offers us the invitation to be unified in Christ as an assembly of the faithful as well as members of the larger body: “One bread, one body, one Lord of all...and we, though many throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord.”

We offer grateful thanks to our Altar Guild for coordinating this new practice. Please speak with Emily Woltmann, Kathy Stawasz or Pastor Raabe if you would like to help prepare communion or serve as a communion assistant.

In the words of the table blessing that now concludes our communion liturgy, “May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.” Amen!

SANCTUARY VILLAGE UPDATE

Hello, Grace family!

I need to share that a few weeks ago, I received news from the Philadelphia City Solicitor that Philly’s new Mayor, Cherelle Parker (elected in November), has decided not to continue the partnership between the City of Philadelphia and my organization, Sanctuary Village, to build a tiny house village on city-owned land for individuals experiencing homelessness. This news came just as we were preparing to finally break ground – after working with the City for over three years. We had initial rumblings that this change in direction might be coming around the time that Mayor Parker was elected, but no one in the Mayor’s administration (including the Mayor) would speak to Sanctuary Village, or explain what her thoughts were. Finally, I was told that the village “is not part of her vision” although no one shared what that vision entails.

And so, Sanctuary Village is working to decide what to do next. A little over a month ago we hired a full-time Executive Director, who is jumping in to help direct us to find a new site for the village. It could be in Philly but it could also be in a suburb – one thing we have learned is how the need for housing is ever increasing and, sadly, more and more people are becoming homeless. We hope to help address this need, and apply all that we have learned over the past few years so that we can move quickly to make our vision a reality at a new location.

As always, I welcome your prayers for this project to move forward and finally be up and running soon!

Thanks,

Cathy Farrell, Grace Council Secretary and Board President, Sanctuary Village



EEC Food Cupboard

A message from Janet Hague: "Over 90 families visited our food cupboard in April and the 6,100 lbs. of groceries distributed was second only to January's total. Thank you for your help!"

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 (including lasagna), Pasta sauce, Tomato paste, canned Fruit (no pears or cranberry), Jelly, GROUND coffee, Sugar, and Flour

Household & Personal Care*: Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, 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: June 4 & 18

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: June 11 & 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; foodcupboard@yahoo.com. You can also call/email Carol MacDonald @215-872-0472; pcmacdonald125@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, 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, Lynn Pribbernow, 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), Annette Beyer (friend of the Reillys), Tricia O'Neill (member of the Stepping Stones family), Ed Irzyk (L. Pribbernow's brother-in-law), Goodloe Sutler (friend of Peggy Schmidt), Joan Fonseca (B. Schmidt's cousin), Betty Ball (Diane Ball's mother-in-law).

For all who grieve, including the family & friends of: Dan Black (Laymen Playmen), Kiffy Bergey (longtime Hatfield resident), 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 Strohlein (member of the extended Barry/Joanne Moyer family), John Josten (Frank & Kay Stone's neighbor), Buzz Benson (Karen Seiler's uncle), Barbara Klock (daughter of Bill & Evelyn Haertter), Al Riley (Bruce Schmidt's cousin).

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

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Stepping Stones 215.368.2052
Jessica Moran, Director



**Thursday Soup Suppers
continue at 5:30pm**



- June 2nd 9:15am Worship/Communion – Confirmation Sunday
- June 16th 9:15am Worship/Communion – Happy Father’s Day
- June 23rd 9:15am Worship/Communion
10:15am -- 4th Sunday Forum
4:00pm -- Healing Service
- June 24th Summer Youth Service Camp begins – *Grace’s Day*

View our website by scanning this code:



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