



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

August 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: Prayers in Action

As people of the gospel, we sing for many reasons. One is to be woven more closely together in faith, hope and love as we lift our voices to God and come out of our individual shells to mysteriously become part of one body. Another is to be inspired by the words that we are singing; all our hymns and songs are carefully chosen with their texts in mind.



In our Vacation Bible school last month, we started every evening with dinner and then shared four songs together drawn from our worship tradition. You heard them if you were with us in church on July 28.

I really liked the song we opened with: "All around the world, kids are praying." It had an especially thoughtful phrase: "Worship God each day and put your prayers in action."

That made me think more deeply about the nature of worship. We have our weekly worship service and other special services, regular times in which we thank and praise God and ask God to strengthen our faith through familiar hymns and structures. But as the song suggests, worship IS action -- action that tells others about who God is. That our God is the one who created us out of overflowing love, the one who redeemed us through the grace-filled gift of his Son, the one whose Spirit through our baptism gives us new life and is always surprising us with invitations to make God's love visible.

How does God's love become visible in the world? Through you, and all the things you do to express that. We could even say that any tangible expression of God's love is a form of worship.

As I thought about this, I remembered the example of a friend at a church that had been struggling for a couple of years with an ineffective interim pastor. The people of the church were growing frustrated and even angry. Then the pastor became very ill and was forced to abruptly resign. His days are now numbered. Even though my friend had had a difficult time with him, she resolved to visit him in the hospital.

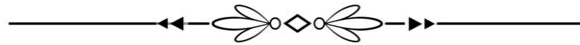
The visit was unsettling; he didn't seem to know who she was and didn't show any expression of gratitude for the visit. Yet she was glad she went. She might not have thought of it this way, but her act of visiting him was a form of worship. She didn't just sit home and pray; she put her prayers in action through her visit, hard as it was for her.

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We people of Grace are good at prayer. We know how to talk to God and we know that God hears everything we lift in prayer. We know that, in doing so, our relationship is deepened with Jesus, who asks us to cast all our burdens on him. As we move toward our fall season, I invite you to find new ways to put your prayers in action. The Giving to God team has a theme for the 2024-25 year called "Grace in Action." You'll be hearing more about that soon. Let's embrace that call to put our prayers in action, to place our trust in God's gracious guidance. Let's see what the year has in store for us!

Yours in Christ's love,

Pastor Nancy Raabe



From the Minister of Music:

Hello Grace friends. I hope your summer has been enjoyable. I've been taking advantage of vacation time and thought I would share a bit with you on my meaningful summer experiences.

Spending summer days with my family and friends has helped make wonderful memories. The season itself evokes a spirit of togetherness, warmth, and joy in simple pleasures in life. Moments of laughter, outdoor adventures, and shared meals have become even more meaningful, having time to reflect and maintain a sense of gratitude. It's incredible how the hustle and bustle of everyday life fades away, reminding me to be present and engaged in the company of those I cherish.

While nurturing connections and spiritual well-being, the pursuit of new music adds yet another layer to my summer experience. As I dedicate time to practice and learn new music, the act of playing new melodies becomes a shared joyful pursuit with my family. This blend of camaraderie, mindfulness, and creativity has enriched my summer.

In our world filled with uncertainty and challenges, staying prayerful serves as an anchor. It evokes a sense of peace and hope in my life. By keeping God in the driver's seat, I find profound trust in divine wisdom, allowing faith to guide me.

My sincere hope is that your summer is blest,

Kevin



IMPORTANT WORSHIP NEWS

We have two shared services in August. On August 11 at 10:30 a.m. (note time), we will have a joint service with the Jesus Love Church, with Pastor Kim preaching. On August 18 at 9:15 a.m. here at Grace, we'll combine with Faith Lutheran in Montgomeryville. Both will be joyful opportunities for shared worship and fellowship.



THE BREAD DROP schedule for August is: 8/6/2024 Karen Seiler; 8/13/2024 Laura Kratz; 8/20/2024 Jean Delmuto; 8/27/2024 Emily Woltmann



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.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

A few of you have wanted to know why we are revisiting the idea of moving into the fall with one combined worship service. If you were with us on Memorial Day weekend, you heard comments about how energizing it was to be one worshipping body again. With this in mind, Pastor Raabe suggested we revisit the possibility of combining our two services into one throughout the year. As we learned when we considered this two years ago, most congregations in our area of our size moved to one service during the pandemic and have remained on that schedule.

Why are we returning to this question? Because many of us enjoy being together as one body instead of being divided between services -- to see the joy of being together, just look at the banner photo on our Facebook page; because it is more encouraging and uplifting to have a greater number of people in worship; because then everyone will get to experience elements that we've had only at the 10:30 service, such as choir music or special activities involving youth and children; and because having only one service makes it easier to recruit worship assistants and altar guild helpers.

At the same time, we recognize that some of you cherish the pattern your Sunday mornings have had, centering on either an early or late service, and that you are reluctant to change that.

The Council may or may not choose to address this question at its August 20 meeting. In the meantime, voice your opinion to our Council. This is why their names and photos are now on our bulletin board. Share your thoughts with our leadership. They need to know where you stand.

STEPPING STONES

It cannot possibly be real that Summer is already coming to a close. August is already here and we're thinking about new friends joining us, saying goodbye to longtime friends, and getting ready for Back to School! We are going out with some class as we celebrate School Spirit week from 8/19-8/23 with Neon Colors Day, Water Ice Day, Western Day, School Twin Day, and our End of Summer Celebration! A reminder that Stepping Stones is closed the last week of August (8/26-8/30) for cleaning but we will re-open on 9/3 after Labor Day ready for a new year! Stay cool out there!

Jessica Moran, Director

WELCA

You are cordially invited to a Tea at Grace Lutheran Church given by the Welca committee on October 19, 2024; the time is 1:00 -3:00 pm. More information will be coming in *Grace Notes* and the September issue of *Parish News*. We hope you will be able to attend and bring a friend. Thank you, Barb Watts



YOGA RETURNS ON Wednesday, September 11th at 6:15 pm.

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.

WHERE: Grace Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

COST: \$7/class (checks can be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church)

WHO: Ages 18 and up

Contact: Kathy Stawasz with any questions (215.760.6297)

Summer Wednesday Evening Picnics

Council Members will host the Last Grace Summer Picnic on **August 7th at GRACE**

Join us for a potluck dinner served at **6:30 pm**.

Bring your favorite **picnic dish** to share.

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

Event is rain or shine!!

Any questions contact Kay Stone at 267-218-2124 or kaystone@comcast.net



August 2024 Serving Schedule

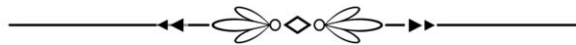
Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
8/04/24 9:15 am	M.J. Moyer & B. Hess	TBD	J. Tula	C. Tula	D. Kunkel & C. Tula	Don Capanear
8/11/24 9:15 am	B. Hess	B. Hess	K. Stawasz	Usher	P. Schmidt & R. Smyrl	TBD
8/18/24 9:15 am	M.J. Moyer & B. Hess	C. MacDonald	C. MacDonald	Usher	P. MacDonald D. Capanear	Carol MacDonald
8/25/24 9:15 am	K. Stone	F. Stone	B. Krout	E. Krout	J. Krout & K. Deussing	Bruce Schmidt

Council Offering/Lock-up for August is: TBD

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm



The Council did not meet in July but will hold a visioning retreat on Saturday, August 10 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at HealthSpark in Lansdale. Pastor John Heidgerd from Emmanuel in Souderton is our facilitator.



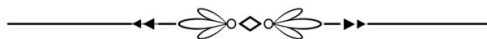
From **September 20-26** Pastor Raabe will be taking a third week of vacation to travel to France (the Toulouse area) to visit her sister.

September 22: Pastor John Berntsen will cover in her absence. Please be on hand to give Pastor Berntsen a warm welcome.

August 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.

Thurs Aug 1, 2024	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun Aug 4, 2024	9:15am	Worship/Communion
Tues Aug 6, 2024	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed Aug 7, 2024	6:30pm	Last Summer Picnic, held at Grace
Thurs Aug 8, 2024	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sat Aug 10, 2024	10:00am -3pm	Grace Council Retreat
Sun Aug 11, 2024	10:30am	Shared Worship with the Jesus Love Church (note time)
Tues Aug 13, 2024	7:00pm	Property Meeting
	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Thurs Aug 15, 2024	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun Aug 18, 2024	9:15am	Shared Worship with Faith Lutheran Church at Grace, Light picnic to follow
Tues Aug 20, 2024	7:00pm	Council Meeting
Thurs Aug 22, 2024	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun Aug 25, 2024	9:15am	Worship/Communion
	10:15am	4th Sunday Summer Forum
	4:00pm	Healing Service
Mon Aug 26, 2024		Stepping Stones is closed all week
Tues Aug 27, 2024	6:30pm	INreach Meeting
Thurs Aug 29, 2024	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun Sept 1, 2024	9:15am	Worship/Communion— “Shout Out Sunday”
Mon Sept 2, 2024		Labor Day Office & Stepping Stones Closed



Pastoral Care If you are ill, seeking pastoral care or need a helping hand for any reason, please contact Pastor Raabe through the office. Talk with her about prayer requests, illnesses, hospital stays, weddings, funerals, baptisms, and the joys in your life.





Harvest Home Sunday

September 29th

The **Giving in Service Team** invites you to participate in our Harvest Home Project. We will be collecting food items to help those in our immediate communities who need food. These gifts are shared with ***Manna on Main Street*** in Lansdale and ***The Hatfield Food Cupboard*** at our neighbor church, Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church.

You are invited to bring ***canned goods and non-perishable items*** to church during the months of **August and September**. There will be a display in the narthex with a list of food items needed and a basket where you can place your food offerings. Also, the Hatfield Food Cupboard would appreciate gift cards (Giant, Aldi, ShopRite, etc.) or cash/checks for donations. Checks should be made out to Grace Lutheran/memo: Hatfield Food Cupboard. The Food Cupboard can purchase special items needed for their families including discounts on meat items.

A few suggested **food items** from Manna and The Hatfield Food Cupboard are:

- Tuna in Oil
- Pasta and Spaghetti Sauce
- Canned tomato products – diced, whole, sauce
- Canned Carrots and Lima Beans
- Dried fruit – raisins, apples, dates
- Flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda
- Toothpaste
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Laundry Detergent

In addition to bringing items of food for our neighbors in our area, you may also use the envelope included in your offering envelope box that is designated for ***Harvest Home Sunday***. These gifts will be given to the **ELCA World Hunger Appeal**. You will be providing funds needed for our neighbors in countries around the world.



EEC Food Cupboard

A message from Janet Hague: "The Emmanuel Food Cupboard remains busy. Shoppers are happy to receive produce from Emmanuel's garden. Food donations usually taper off during the summer and this year is no exception. With an average of serving almost 20 families a week, it's been a challenge to keep shelves filled. Thank you for all you do!"

Current Needs:

Food items: 100% Fruit Juice, dry Pasta, Spaghetti sauce, Coffee, Sugar, Flour, baked Beans, Ketchup, Mustard, canned Fruit (no pears or cranberry)

Household & Personal Care*: Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Razors, Shampoo
(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: Aug 6, 20

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: Aug 13, 27

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), Jerry Mascaro.

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), 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), Joan Fonseca (B. Schmidt's cousin), Betty Ball (Diane Ball's mother-in-law), Pat Ferkitich (friend of Nancy Sellers).

For all who grieve, including the family & friends of: Dan Black (Laymen Playmen), 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), Barbara Klock (daughter of Bill & Evelyn Haertter), Al Riley (Bruce Schmidt's cousin), Goodloe Sutler (friend of Peggy Schmidt).

For those in active duty military service: Jessica Murphy, Air Force; Matthew Smyrl, Army; Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard; Cole Dempsey, Air Force (Laura Kratz's grandson).

For active military deployed overseas: Kyle Murphy, Air Force; Robert McNulty, Marines; Eric Gutsche, Army (Janice Swartz's grandson).

Grace Lutheran Church
Rev Nancy M Raabe, Pastor
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Kevin Freaney, Minister of Music
Stepping Stones 215.368.2052
Jessica Moran, Director



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



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Sunday, August 11th Joint service with the Jesus Love Church
Sunday, August 18th Joint service with Faith Lutheran Church
Sunday, August 25th 4th Sunday Summer Forum and Healing Service
Sunday, September 1st Worship — “Shout Out Sunday”
Monday, Sept. 2nd Labor Day / Office & Stepping Stones Closed

View our website by scanning this code



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