



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

September 2024

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

www.gracelutheranhatfield.org Rev. Nancy M. Raabe, Pastor



The Sound of the Genuine

Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.
(Howard Thurman, 1899-1981)

Experiencing God's true love through Jesus Christ is to be born again into the fullness of life. But this is not just an individual experience; it is one that awaits this body of Christ, this community of faith at Grace Lutheran Church that has come together over 120 years.

A profoundly influential mystic, author, educator, and voice of social and racial justice, Howard Thurman has much to tell us about the fullness of life. In one of his last public addresses, Thurman urged people to discover in themselves what he called "the sound of the genuine." Listen, he said, through the noise of your ambitions and worldly desires for the sound of your uniqueness as a new creation in Christ.

"There is something in every one of you that waits, listens for the sound of the genuine in yourself," Thurman said during his 1980 commencement address at Spelman University. "And if you cannot hear it, you will never find whatever it is for which you are searching, and if you hear it and then do not follow it, it was better that you had never been born."

You, the reader, have come to be a member of this body of Christ either down through generations, or through family connections, or through the invitation of friends, or perhaps because you saw an open door -- the actual doors, or those of Grace's web site -- and it looked like an inviting, welcoming place to be.



But really: Why are you here? What is the vocation of Grace Lutheran Church? Frederick Buechner has famously written, "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." What is that place for this community of faith? Where do you locate that intersection at which your deep desire meets the world's deep need?

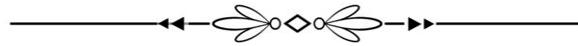
The Congregation Council had a productive one-day retreat last month led by Pastor John Heidgerd in which they pondered big questions. It is my hope that your church leadership can identify, over time, a process involving you, perhaps even led by you if you would like to step into a leadership role, in which all active members listen carefully and respond thoughtfully for the sound of the genuine here at Grace.

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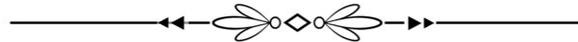
If this congregation can identify its purpose in this community, not only will this carry you into the future, but it will come to define you. The Holy Spirit will then ensure that the resources for a full life will begin to move toward you. "If the conditions for growth and development are met, then growth and development flow automatically," Howard Thurman said. "This is the kind of responsive, dynamic, living, throbbing universe that honors the mind and the spirit which, together, can say one thing—and be that."

Yours in the hope of Christ,

Pastor Nenny Raabe



***Join us in worship in person or online on September 1, 8, 15 and 29
for a sermon series on women prophets of the Bible: Miriam, Deborah, Huldah, and Anna.***



Hello parents and students of Grace,

The air is getting crisper as summer is starting to wind down. Back to school is upon us, and that includes Sunday school! I would like to invite you to join me at 9:15am Sunday mornings for a time of learning, crafts, and fun where we can grow our mustard seed faith into a full blown mustard plant. **We will begin on Sunday, September 8th** with a Cross-Generational activity.

I believe that faith formation is a community effort. Therefore, I would like to invite any and all parents to join as helpers, mentors, and motivators. I look forward to meeting and getting to know you all.

In Service to our Lord,
Annette Dittman, Director of Youth Ministries

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL is leading a collection for personal hygiene items for donation to the EEC Food Cupboard during the month of September. Please place donations in the specially marked bin in the narthex.



STEPPING STONES

The smell of cold in the air, the crispness in the early morning; Autumn is coming. With Autumn comes the blessing of another school year where we get to shape and mold young minds. Stepping Stones starts the year off on 9/3 as we are closed for Labor Day on 9/2 and we are so excited to welcome back old faces and say hello to new ones! We are also looking forward to "Bring Your Favorite Stuffed Animal Day, Wear Fall Colors Day, Pretzel Day, and Picture Day" all happening in September! This school year is looking like it's going to be one of our best school years yet and we can't wait to share it with you! -----Jessica Moran, Director

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We return to our fall worship schedule of 8 and 10:30 a.m. on September 8.



Organists for September are Pat Keen (September 1, 8, and 29) and Bruce Tonkin (September 15 and 22). Pastor John Berntsen will be with us on September 22 while Pastor Raabe is on vacation.

WOMEN MYSTICS, ANCIENT AND MODERN: Fall study on Monday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. Location: The Raabe home, 303 Rosie Lane, Hatfield. Light refreshments will be served.

Ancient mystics: **September 30, October 7, October 14**

Modern mystics: **October 28, November 4, November 11.** See the flyer in the narthex for details background readings for September 30.



THANK YOU'S

From Kitty Heckler: "Thank you for all the phone calls and cards I received for my birthday in August!!"



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, and the bread is also fresh from Hearth Bakery. Stop in at 5:30 any Thursday to experience new community being formed. Make new friends!

WELCA

It's really hard to believe that summer is coming to an end and Welca will be starting once again. Our first meeting will be September 4th at 10:00 am. We will be discussing our upcoming Tea, I hope you will be able to be at the meeting. Thank you. -- Barb



TEA Hosted by WELCA

Grace Lutheran Church
Date: October 19, 2024 Time: 1- 4 pm
RSVP by September 29th
Sign-up Sheet to follow

We hope to see you there! – Barb, Kay, Mary Jane, Sue, Lisa, and Pastor Raabe

September 2024 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
9/01/24 9:15 am	J. Kaler	J. Kaler	C. Farrell	Usher	D. Capanear & K. Deussing	Carol MacDonald
9/08/24 8:00 am 10:30 am	None J. Kaler	None J. Kaler	The Walters B. Krout	Usher E. Krout	The Walters J. Krout & K. Deussing	Ken & Karen Seiler
9/15/24 8:00 am 10:30 am	D. Capanear E. Woltmann	B. Schmidt J. Kaler	TBD J. Kaler	Usher J. Kaler	TBD K. Stone & J. Krout	Kay Stone
9/22/24 8:00 am 10:30 am	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	D. Kunkel J. Shaffer	Usher Usher	D. Capanear & D. Kunkel K. Heacock & M.J. Moyer	Diane Ball
9/29/24 <i>Harvest Home</i> 8:00 am 10:30 am	N/A N/A	N/A N/A	The Walters J. Shaffer	Usher Usher	The Walters M.J. Moyer & K. Deussing	Don Capanear

Council Offering/Lock-up for September is: 8:00 am, Dave Kunkel; 10:30 am, Tom Salter
Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

2025 Serving Schedule Volunteers.....Yes, it's that time of year to start setting up the 2025 serving schedule. If you are currently on the schedule, we will keep you on unless we hear from you. We are always looking for new volunteers. Please contact one of us if you would like to volunteer. Thanks.

Altar Guild - Emily Woltmann 215-822-5909, emiwol95@gmail.com

Communion Assistants - Carol MacDonald 215-872-0472, carol.w.macdonald@gmail.com

Lector and Acolytes - Kathy Stawasz 215-760-6297, kathystawasz@gmail.com

Ushers and Coffee Hour - Kay Stone 215-368-3725, kaystone@comcast.net

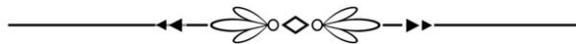
Live Streaming - Harold Schaefer 484-576-0611, schaefeh_19440@yahoo.com

Thanks in advance for volunteering. Kathy 215-760-6297

September 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.
- **Wednesdays at 6:15 pm is Yoga in Fellowship Hall (beginning Sept. 11th)**

Sun Sept 1, 2024	9:15am	Worship/Communion
Mon Sept 2, 2024		Labor Day – Office and Stepping Stones Closed
Tues Sept 3, 2024	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed Sept 4, 2024	10:00am	WELCA Meeting
Thurs Sept 5, 2024	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun Sept 8, 2024	8:00am	Worship/Communion
	9:15am	Sunday School begins
	10:30am	Worship/Communion
Tues Sept 10, 2024	7:00pm	Property Meeting
	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Wed Sept 11, 2024	6:15pm	Yoga begins
Thurs Sept 12, 2024	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun Sept 15, 2024	8:00am	Worship/Communion
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship/Communion
Mon Sept 16, 2024	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Committee Meeting in person
Tues Sept 17, 2024	7:00pm	Council Meeting
Thurs Sept 19, 2024	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun Sept 22, 2024	8:00am	Worship
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship
Thurs Sept 26, 2024	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun Sept 29, 2024	8:00am	Worship – Harvest Home Sunday
	9:15am	Sunday School
	10:30am	Worship - Harvest Home Sunday
Mon Sept 30, 2024	6:00pm	Fall study on Monday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Raabe home.



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.



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)

INREACH

As we move through our lives, we all begin to understand the inevitability of change. While change is the only consistent attribute of how life moves forward in a positive direction it can also result in major challenges that are difficult to navigate alone.

We see change regularly in our Grace congregation. People that were once regular attendees on Sunday mornings or energized members of our ministry teams are now noticeably MIA and we wonder what could be happening in their lives and, more importantly, is there anything we can do to help?

With these questions in mind, the INreach team was born in 2013 with a gathering of talented Grace members who were willing to dig in and get working on reconnecting with our members who were MIA. Over the years our team has ebbed and flowed through different Pastors, leaders, members, and approaches but our goal remains the same:

“Caring for Grace members with Christian love during life’s challenging times”

If you have 10 minutes a month or 1-2 hours a week, the INreach team needs you and is always looking for new members who want to reach out to others in need within our congregation. Our team meets every other month but it is not necessary to attend meetings in order to make a positive difference in the lives of our Grace members.

Over the years, one of our most effective team members was Mama Jean Geotter who did not attend meetings but faithfully made monthly calls to our homebound members while navigating her own health challenges. While we truly miss Mama Jean’s beautiful way of connecting our members, we continue to collaborate with Pastor Raabe to offer occasional meals, rides, phone calls, prayers, Sunshine boxes (thank you, Fay!), and other support as well as celebrating wonderful life occasions. Pastor Raabe also continues to reach out to our members to offer visits and home communion whenever possible.

Please reach out to Pastor if you, or someone you know is experiencing challenges in their life and please let an INreach team member know if you would like to be a part of being the positive change you want to see in our Grace members lives. We need you!

Carol MacDonald, pcmacdonald125@gmail.co, 215-855-8360

Lisa Boyer, Kay Deussing, Ashley Plawa, Tami Sarm, Jean Shaffer, Kay Stone, Crystal Tula, Barb Watts, Sue Wieland, Emily Woltmann, Fay Younger



Prayer list: A new approach

Your INReach and Worship and Music teams have been discussing how to make our prayer list more manageable. Starting in October, we will print the full prayer list here in Parish News, while the list in Grace Notes (weekly newsletter) will include prayers only for Grace members and immediate family rather than including extended family and friends. Please submit requests to Lynn Fasick at graceassistant40@gmail.com, specify whether the need is “ongoing” or “current, and notify her if and when the name may be removed from the list. Thank you!



Harvest Home Sunday

September 29th

What: Harvest Home Project

When: Now through September 29th

Sponsored by: The Giving in Service Team

How to participate: Four ways to give!

1. Donate canned goods and non-perishables to benefit the Hatfield Food Cupboard and Manna on Main Street
2. Donate Gift Cards from local grocery stores (Giant, Aldi ShopRite) – for the Food Cupboard to shop for immediate needs
3. Cash or check to Hatfield Food Cupboard (checks made out to Emmanuel E. C. Missions) – to purchase food items from local suppliers at a savings
4. Harvest Home offering envelope – funds given to ELCA World Hunger to help our neighbors in other countries

Display in Narthex

Items needed 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

Body Wash

Laundry Detergent

Shampoo/Conditioner

Toothpaste

The Laymen Playmen 2025 Show: Dates are March 21-23 and 28-30, 2025

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat

Auditions will be held on:

Wednesday November 6, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Saturday November 9, 2024 at 10:00 am

The audition form is available online and may be printed off and filled out before you arrive.

Looking for children ages 8-11 for children's choir and teens/adults of all ages for the show

Auditions and Performances will be held at:

Lansdale United Methodist Church

300 N. Broad St.

Lansdale, PA 19040 (parking behind the church off 4th St)

Rehearsals: Rehearsals will be held on Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Lansdale United Methodist Church, First Rehearsal/Readthrough: Wednesday November 20 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Detailed information regarding auditions and the show may be found on:

www.laymenplaymen.org



THE BREAD DROP schedule for September is: 9/3/2024 Jess Moran;
9/10/2024 Jess Moran; 9/17/2024 Priscilla Landis; 9/24/2024 Laura Kratz



Wednesday Evening Picnics

Thank you to our hosts for our Summer gatherings!

- Peggy and Bruce Schmidt
 - Barb Watts
- Frank and Kay Stone/Ruth and Don Campolongo
 - Church Council Members

And thanks to all of **YOU** who joined us for delicious food,
great fun and good fellowship.

EEC FOOD CUPBOARD



**Food
Collection**

A message from Janet Hague: "August was a busy month in the Emmanuel Food Cupboard. The church garden provided extra produce, and a grant from Montgomery County commissioners allowed us to buy in bulk from a food wholesaler. Garden of Health also supplies fresh, frozen, and shelf-stable foods each month. All these donations, along with regular contributions from Grace parishioners and other neighbors allowed us to help 95 separate families who received 5,900 lbs. of food and household essentials in the past month. Thank you for your faithfulness!"

Current Needs:

Food items: 100% Fruit Juice, dry Pasta, Spaghetti sauce, Coffee, Sugar, Flour, Olives, 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: Sept 3, 17

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: Sept 10, 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), 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), Bob Rocheleau (Bruce Schmidt's brother-in-law).

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).

SAVE THE DATE

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

North Penn/Lansdale
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 13, 2024

LANSDALE, PENNSYLVANIA

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Stepping Stones 215.368.2052

Jessica Moran, Director



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



Sept. 2nd - Labor Day – Office and Stepping Stones Closed

Sept. 8th - Sunday School begins

Sept. 11th - Yoga begins in Fellowship Hall

Sept. 29th - Harvest Home Sunday

Sept. 30th - Fall study at the Raabe home

View our website by scanning this code



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