



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

November 2024

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

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



120th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, and ALL SAINTS SUNDAY NOV. 3rd

Join us for our big anniversary celebration on **Sunday, November 3rd** with **one service at 10:30 a.m.!** With festive music featuring choir and

brass, we will also honor the “saints” of Grace who have died in the past year and helped keep the dream of this congregation alive. A luncheon will be served following the service. Bishop Bryan Penman will be with us to preach, preside at communion and be in conversation with us. Check out the new banner on Broad St. All are welcome!

Pastor’s Column: Only Through Faith

Have you ever been reading a psalm and then come across a verse thinking, I have seen this somewhere before?

If you are a student of the psalms, it happens all the time. While each of these 150 songs has its own identity, many individual verses burrow their way through the entire corpus of psalms to create a shimmering patchwork of lament, prayer, and praise. So pervasive is this tendency for certain verses to show up in multiple psalms that years ago I had the idea of trying to collate these to create a broad picture of this jigsaw puzzle, hoping that some clarity might emerge. After I got started, I realized it was an extremely time-consuming operation and that my time might be better spent simply praying these verses rather than trying to understand how they find themselves transposed across the book.

This awareness startled me again last week when I was in the middle of Psalm 40 and found myself reading, "Be pleased, O Lord to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me." Wait a minute – that is the opening verse from my go-to psalm, Psalm 70, for whenever I find myself in trouble. What is God trying to get me to see? Hmmm....I have always focused on the second half of the verse, which can be summarized as: “Help!” What about the first part? What does it mean that God is *pleased* to deliver us?



Here is what came to mind: God knows at all times exactly where we are and what is going on with us and is waiting eagerly for us to turn to him using that second half of the verse. God's heart is gladdened when we do turn to him in the midst of our troubles (or really anytime). And it's not just that we have the reassurance that God is there listening, but that God will in fact us rescue us from whatever dark valley we are in. God is pleased to be asked to deliver us!

How does God rescue us? With love. God delivering us means that no matter what we have thoughtlessly done, no matter what we have carelessly said, no matter how low what someone said about us tempts us to

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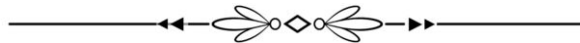
fall, God – our fortress and crag (I love that word – God catches us just when we are about to go over the edge) rescues us with the assurance that we are loved with a breadth of compassion that we will never be able to fathom.

There will always be people who, out of fear and weakness, attempt to lift themselves above us, in the effort to make themselves feel self-important. But Paul tells us through his own experience that nothing, especially not the condemnation of others, can separate us from God's love in Jesus Christ. Because the one who gave himself for us takes upon himself everything that might otherwise drive us down. Only he can handle it. We can't – so just give it over to him.

This is the essence of Martin Luther's doctrine of justification by faith. Nothing that we do or don't do, nothing that someone else says about us or does to us, can affect our standing in God's sight as totally and utterly beloved. This boundless love of God comes to us by grace through faith, and not through any effort of our own. The Beatles sang "All you need is love," but Luther would say, "All you need is faith." And as Jesus said countless times to people in life-and-death situations, certainly many more times than are recorded in scripture: "Do not fear. Just believe."

Grace and peace,

Pastor Nanny Raabe



Youth Group Highlights for the remainder of 2024:

On Sunday 11/10 we will create pumpkin flower arrangements for Grace's homebound members.

On Saturday 12/7 we will participate in the Hatfield Christmas Tree lighting.

Thanks to all families for their help and support!

Annette Dittman, Director of Youth Ministries



SUNDAY SCHOOL



A reminder that Sunday School now takes place during both the 8 and 10:30 services. Annette takes the children out after the children's message for a lesson, and they return before communion. She is looking for children to enjoy her lessons, and Pastor Raabe is looking for parents to enjoy the worship service! Please support our Sunday School as diligently as you can.

STEPPING STONES

November is upon us and the holidays are in full swing! Stepping Stones will be enjoying focusing on family and togetherness this month as we prepare for Thanksgiving and our 6th annual Thanksgiving Feast! We will also be celebrating Eagles Spirit Day, Pretzel Day, and Bring a Stuffed Friend to School Day. Please note that Stepping Stones is closed on 11/28 and 11/29 for the Thanksgiving Holiday but we will re-open for regular business on 12/2. Gobble Gobble! Have a great Thanksgiving and thank you for being part of our family :)

Jessica Moran, Director

Angel Boxes

Once again, we are collecting personal care items for our Angel Box distributions at Christmas time. These items will go to our Adopt-A-Families and to the two Hatfield Food Cupboards. The Food Cupboards are experiencing continually increasing numbers of families requesting their help. Collection boxes will be in the Narthex through December 15th. Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Items needed include:

Paper towels	Toothpaste and toothbrushes
Toilet paper	Razors
Kleenex	Bar soap and Deodorant
Shampoo (please tighten all lids)	Feminine products



THE BREAD DROP schedule for November is: 11/5/2024 Laura Kratz;
11/12/2024 Jean Delmuto; 11/19/2024 Emily Woltmann; 11/26/2024 Karen Seiler

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.

Modern mystics: **November 4, November 11.**

Contact Pastor Raabe if you'd like to participate.

MINISTER OF MUSIC search update

We welcome Pat Keen and Deacon Bruce W. Tonkin this fall to lead us in worship as our search is ongoing. The job posting is linked from the home page of our website. A five-person team of Grace members is overseeing the search process. Bruce has also begun working with the Grace choir. Rehearsals are on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. Join in anytime!



WELCA

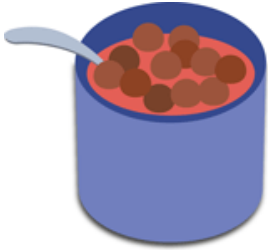
First of all, we would like to thank everyone that came to our very first Tea. It was a success, we had 24 people that attended. We hope to do this again but this time it will be in the late spring so I hope you can come (just letting you know very early). We would like to thank Dave Handy for his music which was wonderful, and a big Thank you to Lori and Jim Pluda who also provided entertainment, plus table settings and everything that goes with a Tea. Ladies, our next WELCA meeting will be November 6th. Not sure if we will be doing Thanksgiving cards or not for our Homebound members, I will let you know later. Thanks again for all your help! Barb Watts 😊



GRACE RECYCLES: To all who use Grace's Recycling Bin: Please flatten all cardboard boxes. Also, all plastic, cans, bottles, jars should be rinsed and placed loosely (not in trash bags) in the bin. This will allow the maximum amount of material to be placed in the bin between monthly pickups. Thank you !

THURSDAY SOUP SUPPERS

If you haven't experienced our Soup Suppers yet, we warmly invite you to attend. 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 and spread the word. Postcards to share are in the narthex.



Soup-A-Thon: November 10th from 9 - 11:30 am

Please mark your calendars for your next opportunity to buy delicious soups that support our INreach team ministry as well as our local veterans! Once again, we will be giving 1/2 of our proceeds to an organization that makes a positive difference in the lives of our local heroes. Last year, we were able to contribute \$150 to Tails of Valor Paws of Honor!

If you enjoy making soup (recipes and containers will be available) and would like to support us in this fundraiser, please keep an eye out for our **Soup-a-Thon display** in the narthex mid-October. Your help is greatly appreciated...we can't do this without you!

November 2024 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
11/03/24 <i>All Saints Sunday and 120th Years of Grace Celebration</i> 10:30 am	Emily Woltmann	Jaime Kaler	Jean Shaffer	Elijah Krout	Jeff Krout & Kay Deussing	N/A
11/10/24 8:00 am 10:30 am	L. Kratz E. Woltmann	K. Seiler B. Hess	The Walters T. Sarm	Usher Usher	The Walters J. Krout & K. Heacock	The Seilers
11/17/24 8:00 am 10:30 am	L. Kratz E. Woltmann	B. Schmidt C. MacDonald	P. Schmidt J. Kaler	Usher L. Kaler	P. Schmidt & D. Capanear K. Stawasz & C. Tula	Cathy Farrell
11/24/24 <i>Christ the King</i> 8:00 am 10:30 am	L. Kratz E. Woltmann	K. Seiler B. Hess	K. Seiler J. Shaffer	Usher Usher	The Walters The Sluggs	The Seilers

Council Offering/Lock-up for November is: 8:00 am, Wendy Walter; 10:30 am, Cathy Farrell

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm, Jayson Tula

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



YOGA every Wednesday 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)



CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING

A congregational meeting will be held following the 10:30 service on **Sunday, December 8**, to approve the 2025 budget. Please be in attendance so that we can have a quorum and discussion.

Copies of the 2025 budget will be available later this month in the narthex.

Ministry Profile: Finance Team

The Finance team is responsible for the church's day-to-day funds and provides oversight to the Treasurer. The team coordinates with all of the other committees and teams to prepare the annual budget and monitors the actual results in comparison to that budget. The Finance Team also makes recommendations to the Council regarding allocation of funds to various expenses, savings accounts and investments. Members: **Bob Smyrl**, John Weierman, Bob Reilly, Tami Sarm, Tom Salter. Our new treasurer, Beverly Smith, will join the team in 2025 as Tami concludes her 10 years of service. Thank you, Tami – and welcome, Bev!



Finance Team

November 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

Sun Nov 3, 2024	10:30am	ONE SERVICE – 120 Years of Grace Anniversary Celebration
	12:00 noon	Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
Mon Nov 4, 2024	6:00pm	Fall study on Monday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Raabe home.
Tues Nov 5, 2024	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed Nov 6, 2024	10:00am	WELCA Meeting
Thurs Nov 7, 2024	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun Nov 10, 2024	8:00am	Worship (Sunday School during worship)
	10:30am	Worship (Sunday School during worship)
Mon Nov 11, 2024	6:00pm	Fall study on Monday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Raabe home.
Tues Nov 12, 2024	7:00pm	Property Meeting
	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Wed Nov 13, 2024	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Committee Meeting, via Zoom
	7:15pm	Giving In Service Meeting
Thurs Nov 14, 2024	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun Nov 17, 2024	8:00am	Worship (Sunday School)
	10:30am	Worship (Sunday School)
Tues Nov 19, 2024	7:00pm	Council Meeting
Thurs Nov 21, 2024	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun Nov 24, 2024	8:00am	Worship (Sunday School)
	10:30am	Worship (Sunday School)
Thurs Nov 28, 2024		THANKSGIVING (No Soup Supper)
		Office & Stepping Stones Closed
Fri Nov 29, 2024		Office & Stepping Stones Closed

Use of Fellowship Hall: Please Note

This is a reminder that Stepping Stones uses Fellowship Hall at various times throughout their day. Stepping Stones is in session from 7:30-5:30 Monday to Friday. Access during those times **must** be coordinated with the Stepping Stones Director, Jessica Moran. Any planned activities should also be scheduled through the church office, by contacting Lynn Fasick. Thank you for your cooperation.



Prayer list

Your INReach and Worship and Music teams have been discussing how to make our prayer list more manageable. We are working on a new system in which the full prayer list will be published 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!

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, Jerry 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), John Renick, Joan Wright & Alicia Hollingsworth (friends of Linda Renick), 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), Christopher Humlhanz (Jaime Snyder's cousin), Betty Poling (June Detweiler's sister), 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), Joan Fonseca (B. Schmidt's cousin), Betty Ball (Diane Ball's mother-in-law), Pat Ferkitch (friend of Nancy Sellers), Bob Rocheleau (Bruce Schmidt's brother-in-law), Atticus Jones (Lynn & Mike Plawa-Oxenford's nephew), Connie Plawa (Lynn's sister-in-law), Priscilla (Shaffer) Hollerbach.

For all who grieve, including the family & friends of: Dan Black (Laymen Playmen), Joan Roeder, Dawn Pier, Roger Smith (friend of the Shaffer family), Janet Williams (Carol MacDonald's mother), Jacob Strohle (member of the extended Barry/Joanne Moyer family), 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), Jan Madigan (Sue Wieland's niece), Sally Muntz.

For those in active duty military service: Jessica Murphy, Air Force; Matthew 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), Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard.



Laymen Playmen
Theatre
COMMUNITY THEATRE with a COMMUNITY MISSION

37th Production

March 21, 22, 23
& 28, 29, 30 - 2025



Lyrics by Tim Rice
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING
TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
is presented by arrangement with
Concord Theatricals on behalf of
The Really Useful Group.
www.concordtheatricals.com

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



EEC FOOD CUPBOARD

A message from Janet Hague: "In the past month, you and other friends from the community have helped us to provide food for 84 families! We're especially grateful for the cash and gift cards you gave at Harvest Home--your donation arrived just one day after our busiest distribution in months, when shelves were quite empty, so we were able to promptly refill them. God provides! Thank you for your continued faithfulness in helping us to help others."

Food items: Cereal, Soup (no chicken noodle or tomato), Cooking Oil.

Household & Personal Care*: Toothpaste, Shampoo (PLEASE TIGHTEN ALL LIDS!), and paper towels

Gift Cards: Grocery gift cards are always welcome too, especially ALDI & Giant!

Your non-perishable donations can be placed in our Grace narthex bins by the conference room, and they will be brought to EEC when bins are full.

Upcoming distribution dates & times:

Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm: Nov 5, 19

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: Nov 12, 26

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.



Sweets for Sharing 2024

Calling all Cookie Makers! On December 11th WELCA and the INreach team will once again be putting together Christmas boxes of confections for our homebound and Grace staff. Please consider donating cookies (freshly made or store bought) or individually wrapped candies so that we can continue this much-loved tradition. We will be collecting these items at Grace in the narthex and putting them together Wednesday evening Dec. 11th at Peggy & Bruce Schmidt's house. Thank you in advance for your generous offerings! Any questions OR to arrange a pickup or drop off of your donation, please call or email: carol.w.macdonald@gmail.com; 215-872-0472.

Thank you notes from the Giving in Service Team:

2024 CROP WALK -- Thank you for supporting our Grace Team. Our team raised **\$976**. Thanks to all our walkers and special thanks to Jean Shaffer for her continued support and passion for the CROP HUNGER WALK. The funds raised by our team will provide over \$200 for Manna on Main Street and over \$700 for Church World services.



Thank you for gifts of food for **Harvest Home Sunday**. These items were shared with Manna on Main Street in Lansdale and the Food Cupboard at Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church in Hatfield. The gifts of money for the Hatfield Food Cupboard also provided needed funds to buy items that are not donated.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2024



Poinsettias will be available for decoration of our Chancel. Orders are now being taken. The DEADLINE for ordering is Sunday, 12/8/24.

You may pick up your plant after the last Christmas Eve Service or the following Sunday. The plants will be tagged with your name. Regrettably, we are not able to deliver the Poinsettias to friends or shut-ins.

Please place your order form along with your check in the basket marked for Christmas Poinsettias in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Stawasz 215-760-6297. Thank you.

Cost - \$8.25	Red - 1 Branched Poinsettia	4-6 Blooms	Pot Size 6"
Qty. _____			

Cost - \$14.50	2 Branched Poinsettia	8-12 Blooms	Pot Size 7"
<u>Red & White Combination</u>		Qty. _____	

Total \$ Amount Enclosed: _____
In Memory of: _____ _____
In Honor of: _____ _____
Ordered by: _____ Phone No. _____
_____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check here if you do not want your flowers.



Make checks payable to: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Grace Lutheran Church
Rev Nancy M Raabe, Pastor
40 North Main Street
Hatfield PA 19440-2905

GraceLutheranHatfield.org

Office Phone 215.855.4676

Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator

Graceassistant40@gmail.com

Annette Dittman, Director of Youth
Ministries

Stepping Stones 215.368.2052

Jessica Moran, Director

*Soup Suppers
at Grace!*

Every Thursday at 5:30 p.m.
starting February 15
A COMMUNITY MEAL



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



**Nov. 3rd 10:30 am, ONE SERVICE – 120 Years of Grace
Anniversary Celebration with Luncheon in Fellowship Hall**

**Nov. 28th THANKSGIVING (No Soup Supper)
Office & Stepping Stones Closed**

Nov. 29th Office & Stepping Stones Closed

View our website by scanning this code



Grace Lutheran Church
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Hatfield, PA 19440-2905