



# PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

January 2025

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: New Beginnings

How do we look ahead to the new year? What is our frame of mind?

Dietrich Bonhoeffer gives us a stirring example in his last theological work, "By Gracious Powers So Wonderfully Sheltered." Bonhoeffer wrote this poem in Berlin's Tegel Prison, where he spent the entire year of 1944 imprisoned for his participation in a plot to kill Adolf Hitler; he was ultimately executed in the concentration camp at Flossenbürg in April 1945, just days before Americans liberated the camp.

The text resides in our hymnal, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, as #626 but is rarely sung because it has not yet found a good tune, despite several attempts by notable composers.

"By Gracious Powers" is an important text for the life of faith because it shows us how to give thanks for what we have received, and to look forward to what we are promised, by acknowledging the hardships as well as the joys. The last three stanzas read:

- 3 And when this cup you give is filled to brimming  
with bitter suff'ring, hard to understand,  
we take it thankfully and without trembling  
out of so good and so beloved a hand.
- 4 Yet when again in this same world you give us  
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,  
we shall remember all the days we lived through  
and our whole life shall then be yours alone.
- 5 By gracious pow'rs so faithfully protected,  
so quietly, so wonderfully near,  
we live each day in hope, with you beside us,  
and go with you through ev'ry coming year.

New Minister of Music	2
Sunday School and Stepping Stones	3
WELCA, Annual Meeting And Bible Study	4
Serving Schedule	5
Calendar	6
Prayer List	7
Laurel House	7
EEC Food Cupboard	8
Laymen Playmen	8
Yoga	9



At Grace, some aspects of the old year have not been easy. We lost to the sleep of death several beloved longtime beloved members of our family as we prayed them into God's care. We lost our former minister of music Kevin Freaney upon his resignation. We moved to weekly communion, which was an undertaking for our hard-working Altar Guild and Music and Worship Committee, because more people are needed to make that happen and worship helpers are typically in short supply. We completed the long-discussed project to

mount flatscreens in the sanctuary, which requires the repositioning of banners that have long adorned our worship space.

Yet there are signs of the hope in which we live each day, with God beside us.

New members are contributing significantly to our lives in surprising and very generous ways. Our Thursday Soup Suppers have taken on a life of their own. Our new Director of Youth Ministry, Annette Dittman, has found a place in the heart of every child who attends worship with her lively children's messages and Sunday School lessons during both services, and she is pulling our youth together as well. More worship helpers have stepped up, including some who had never done these jobs before. We will have a youth member on Council for the first time in several years. We have a new ministry team, the Fellowship Committee, which is busy planning things we can do together -- not only to have fun but to raise money. And we have completed the search for a new Minister of Music by hiring Susanna Faust, who begins on January 5.

Members of the current Psalms of Lament class are coming to understand that you cannot have authentic praise without lament. We must name our sufferings before we can genuinely thank God for all God has done. Dietrich Bonhoeffer's hymn recognizes sorrows of life and the reign of death in a world that is still under the power of sin and the devil. Yet shining through this text is the hope in the God of grace who promises to make all things work together for the ultimate good of God's children.

Let us enter the new year in that frame of mind, ready to share the good news with everyone we meet.

Yours in the hope of Christ,

*Pastor Nancy Raabe*

### **Announcement of our new MINISTER OF MUSIC**

The Grace Council and the musician search committee are pleased to announce that Grace has hired Susanna Faust as our new Minister of Music, effective January 1. Many of you will remember her from the services she played at Grace on October 13.

A native of York, Pennsylvania, Susanna studied organ music at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, NC, which is affiliated with the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA. She received her Master's degree from the prestigious College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, and has served Lutheran, Episcopal, and Greek Orthodox congregations in the Philadelphia area.

In addition to her proficiency on the organ, Susanna is in demand as a private piano teacher and maintains a studio of a dozen students each week. She has wide-ranging musical interests that cover a variety of styles. She also has proficiency in a number of languages. Susanna is looking forward to working with the Grace Choir on the same schedule they've been keeping and cultivating instrumentalists to play regularly.

We thank the search committee for their diligent work over the past four months: Cathy Farrell, chair, with Barb Hess, Bob Reilly, Ken Seiler, and Harold Schaefer.

Please plan to be here on January 5 for Susanna's first Sunday and to greet her at a reception following the 10:30 service. Welcome, Susanna!

## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

In November the Youth Group created pumpkin flower arrangements to be given to Grace's homebound members. They hollowed out the pumpkins and stuffed them with flowers. The entire room smelled like a flower shop!



The group is trying to come up with a name and are discussing what their social media presence might look like.

Sunday school is going well. We have had kids at both services, so that's exciting. We have been using the gospel lesson as the basis for our gathering. We play a short game and do a craft and a little snack as well.

Annette Dittman, Director of Youth Ministries

## STEPPING STONES

Ho-Ho-Holy Cow! It's January! We are so excited for the second half of the school year and for the new calendar year! We've had a lot of ups and downs this year but 2025 promises to be great as we kick things off with our Read-a-thon beginning on January 27th. The Read-a-thon is a schoolwide effort to encourage kids of all ages to start exploring and reading books not just at school but also at home! Kids have a chance to earn small prizes for the amount of minutes they spend reading, being read to, or even just looking at pictures. Just a reminder that Stepping Stones will be closed on January 1st for New Year's Day as well as Monday, January 20th for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Happy New Year to all!

Jessica Moran, Director

## WELCA

Ladies, I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Years. We won't be having a meeting in January due to the fact I don't know how the weather will be and I want everyone to be safe. So, our next meeting will be February 5<sup>th</sup>, weather permitting. Take care and stay safe, Barb

## THURSDAY SOUP SUPPERS

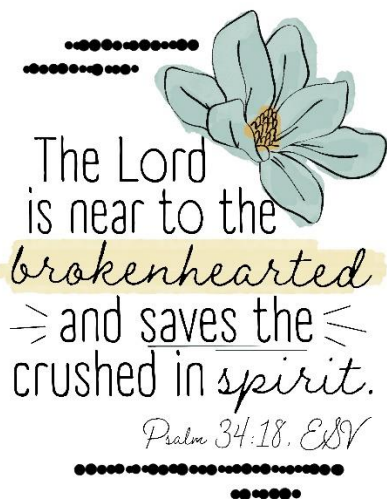
If you haven't experienced our Soup Suppers yet, we warmly invite you to attend. We regularly welcome members from the neighborhood along with members of Grace; there is always someone new each week. Soups are freshly made, and the bread is also fresh from Hearth Bakery. Stop in at 5:30 any Thursday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



**THE BREAD DROP schedule for January 2025 is:** 1/7/25 Priscilla Landis; 1/14/25 Laura Kratz; 1/21/25 Jean Delmuto; 1/28/25 Jessica Moran

## ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be held January 25, 2025, starting with a potluck at 5 p.m. and the meeting at 6 p.m. Look for a signup sheet for what to bring!



## BIBLE STUDY

**The Psalms of Lament** class continues on Wednesdays in January at noon – January 8, 15 and 22. You may join anytime!

## January 2025 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
<b>1/05/25</b> <i>Epiphany</i> <b>8:00 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b>	J. Swartz E. Woltmann & L. Boyer	D. Kunkel B. Hess	P. Schmidt B. Krout	Usher	D. Capanear & R. Smyrl J. Krout & K. Deussing	Cathy Farrell
<b>1/12/25</b> <i>Baptism of our Lord</i> <b>8:00 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b>	J. Swartz E. Woltmann & L. Boyer	B. Schmidt C. MacDonald	K. Seiler C. MacDonald	Usher	The Seilers The Tulas	Bruce Schmidt
<b>1/19/25</b> <b>8:00 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b>	J. Swartz E. Woltmann & L. Boyer	K. Seiler J. Kaler	W. Walter The Sluggs	Usher C. Tula	The Walters The Sluggs	Wendy Walter
<b>1/26/25</b> <b>8:00 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b>	J. Swartz E. Woltmann & L. Boyer	D. Kunkel F. Stone	K. Seiler J. Shaffer	Usher O. Plawa	B. Schmidt & K. Seiler L. Boyer & K. Heacock	Ken Seiler

**Council Offering/Lock-up for January 2025 is: 8:00 am, Dave Kunkel; 10:30 am, Cathy Farrell**  
**Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm, Jayson Tula**



### ***A HUGE Thank you for your generous gifts to the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project***

A team of Grace Elves packed up the wonderful gifts and pantry items we collected from our members. You have helped to make Christmas special for three families. In addition, your items for the Angel Gifts were shared with our families and two area food cupboards. We were also able to provide some extra gifts and pantry food items with the help of funds from a Thrivent Action Team project. Special thanks to our team of expert organizers who helped pack all the gifts. Thank you so much for shopping and supporting our adopted families and the food cupboards.

***The Giving in Service Team***

## January 2025 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

<b>Wed Jan 1, 2025</b>		<b>New Year's Day – Office &amp; Stepping Stones CLOSED</b>
Thurs Jan 2, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sat Jan 4, 2025	11:00am	Funeral – Sally Muntz
<b>Sun Jan 5, 2025</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Worship—Epiphany</b>
		<b>Sunday School begins again</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship—Epiphany</b>
		<b>Sunday School begins again</b>
	<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Welcome Reception for Susanna Faust</b>
Tues Jan 7, 2025	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed Jan 8, 2025	6:15pm	Yoga begins again
Thurs Jan 9, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Committee Meeting, via Zoom
<b>Sun Jan 12, 2025</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
Tues Jan 14, 2025	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
Thurs Jan 16, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
<b>Sun Jan 19, 2025</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
Mon Jan 20, 2025		<b>Stepping Stones CLOSED for Martin Luther King Day</b>
Tues Jan 21, 2025	7:00pm	Council Meeting, Zoom option
Thurs Jan 23, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sat Jan 25, 2025	5-7:00pm	<b>Annual Meeting and Potluck</b>
<b>Sun Jan 26, 2025</b>	<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>10:30am</b>	<b>Worship</b>
Thurs Jan 30, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper



### 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](mailto: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), 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:** Kristopher Yoder, Lisa Kane, Vickie West, Sandy Klinger, Peg Malloy, Daniel Hopwood (Tom Hopwood's son), John Renick, Joanne Moyer, Sheran Shenk (friend of Bruce & Peggy Schmidt), 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), Annette Beyer (friend of the Reillys), 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), Atticus Jones (Lynn & Mike Plawa-Oxenford's nephew), Connie Plawa (Lynn's sister-in-law), Priscilla (Shaffer) Hollerbach, John & Bonnie Stangl, Milford Lyndaker (friend of Karen Seiler) Jordyn Goldstein (teacher, Stepping Stones), Chelsea Mascaro (Hazel & Jerry's granddaughter), Cheryl Nicholas (Tom Salter's niece), Kathryn Shelly (Will Shaffer's mother-in-law).

**For all who grieve, including the family & friends of:** Dan Black (Laymen Playmen), Roger Smith (friend of the Shaffer family), Buzz Benson (Karen Seiler's uncle), 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), Robert McNulty, Marines.

**For active military deployed overseas:** Kyle Murphy, Air Force; Eric Gutsche, Army (Janice Swartz's grandson), Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard.



### Laurel House Valentine's Day Project 2025

The *Giving in Service Team* invites you to support our 2024 Valentine's Day Project. Laurel House provides shelter, care and counseling for abused women and children of Montgomery County. We will be collecting funds to purchase gift cards from the Boy Scouts which in turn helps the scouts. You may give any amount toward the purchase of \$25 gift cards which give parents the ability to buy gifts for their children, as well as other essential, basic needs. Look for the display in the narthex in early January!

**What is Laurel House?** Laurel House is a comprehensive domestic violence agency, providing supportive and preventative services throughout Montgomery County. Through the help of local churches and community groups, the women and children are provided with the funds to shop for personal care items and other necessities for daily life.



## EEC FOOD CUPBOARD

A message from Janet Hague: "Thanks to our friends at Grace for their hearty support of the "Angel Box" effort! These non-edibles go a long way in helping us to meet the needs of the 80-90 families we assist every month!" Your generous giving is so beneficial to your neighbors in Hatfield. Thanks for spreading some joy during these cold dark days of winter!

### Current Needs:

**Food items:** Soup (especially chunky types), Flour, Sugar, Coffee, Ketchup, Mustard, Beef Stew (canned), Spam

**Household & Personal Care\*:** 13 gal Kitchen Trash bags

**Gift Cards:** Grocery gift cards are always welcome and very helpful, 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 the EEC when bins are full.

### Upcoming distribution dates & times:

Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm: Jan 7 & 21


Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: Jan 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](mailto:foodcupboard@yahoo.com).

**Laymen Playmen  
Theatre**  
COMMUNITY THEATRE with a COMMUNITY MISSION

**37<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.concordtheatricals.com)

The Laymen Playmen, Inc. proudly present their 37<sup>th</sup> production of  
**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.**

It will be produced on March 21,22,23,28,29, and 30, 2025. The show location is Lansdale United Methodist Church, 300 N Broad St., Lansdale, PA 19446.

The musical written by Andrew Lloyd Weber and Tim Rice is based on the Biblical story of Joseph from the Book of Genesis. He is the favorite son of Jacob and is given a coat of many colors by his father. Joseph's brothers become jealous and the story follows Joseph and his many adventures.

Tickets go on sale January 1, 2025.

**Detailed information regarding the show may be found on:**

**[www.laymenplaymen.org](http://www.laymenplaymen.org)**

Any questions call 215-368-9484



**YOGA every Wednesday at 6:15 pm. Classes resume 1/8/25.**



Yoga is for all levels. 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);

Contact: Kathy Stawasz with any questions (215.760.6297)



**GRACE RECYCLES:**

Please flatten all cardboard boxes before putting them in the recycling bin. 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 !

**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.



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](mailto:Graceassistant40@gmail.com)

Annette Dittman, Director of Youth  
Ministries

Stepping Stones 215.368.2052

Jessica Moran, Director

**Jan 1, 2025 -- New Year's Day  
Office & Stepping Stones CLOSED**

**Jan 5, 2025 – Worship, Epiphany  
And welcome Reception for Susanna Faust,  
new Minister of Music**

**Jan 25, 2025 -- Annual Meeting and Potluck**

*View our website by scanning this code*



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