



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

March 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

If you look at the fine print at the bottom of each hymn in our hymnal, you will see the name of the person who wrote the text. Each of the 654 hymns in our cranberry hymnal (there are 893 numbered entries, but the first 238 are service music) was chosen because the words have something powerful to say about who we are as God's people and the mission that we share.

One of our most gifted modern-day text writers is Brian Wren (b. 1936 in Essex, England). Wren has a remarkable talent for reaching into the depths of our humanity and pulling out truths that he then expresses, through the lens of scripture, in language that is poetic, clear and communicative.

One of his hymns that is not in our hymnal, but which been ringing in my ears lately, is called "This is the Day of New Beginnings." I think the Holy Spirit brought it to mind as a way of helping me prepare to move out of this loving community and into retirement. If you want to sing it with me, I made a little video that is posted on our YouTube page.

1. This is a day of new beginnings,
time to remember, and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing,
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

2. For by the life and death of Jesus,
love's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference
as faith and hope are born again.

3. Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,
step from the past, and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt and grieving,
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

4. Christ is alive, and goes before us
to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings;
our God is making all things new.

It is in times of uncertainty that we rediscover the roots of our faith. When things are going along just fine, we may not have a reason draw on our deep grounding in Jesus Christ as the one who is always present with us as the source of unshakable hope that his death and resurrection brings. Right now, in the church as in the world, we have special need of that hope.

Your faith will also serve to remind you that this congregation, at the proud age of 120, will persevere – but only with robust member involvement. The Holy Spirit is always stirring up new ideas! Here are a few:

- Support our wonderful ministry teams and their chairpersons. If you are not serving on one of these, get involved! You will not only be breathing new life into that team's mission, it's a wonderful way for you to get to know Grace members better. There are brochures in the narthex describing what all these teams do and who they are. Just pick one and contact the chair.

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- Come to church. Come To hear the gospel proclaimed in word and song, come for the fellowship, come because This is what Christians have always done on the Lord's Day -- gather, greet, worship, and share in the Lord's supper.
- Continue to support Grace in the way that you have been doing, or perhaps even increase your regular gift as an expression of confidence that this body of Christ is alive in the Spirit.
- Come up with a new idea for Grace. Share it with a few people and see if it catches on. It might just be the right thing at the right time.
- Pray. Pray for Grace, pray for the church in the world, pray for those who are unable to attend church physically but are with us in spirit.

In all these ways and more, cling to that certain truth from Revelation 21:5 that Brian Wren embraces as the key message of his hymn: "Behold, I am making all things new."

Yours in the hope of Christ,

Pastor Nanny Raabe

REMINDER: The "Live Auction" from the snow weekend in February, has been rescheduled for Saturday, March 8th !!



Laurel House Valentine's Day Project 2025

Thank you for supporting our Laurel House project. Your gifts will help to provide financial support for families within the Laurel House programs. Gift cards give parents the ability to buy gifts for their children, as well as other essential, basic needs.

The Giving in Service Team

STEPPING STONES

Spring is so close we can feel it! Before we know it we will be preparing for Easter celebrations and the end of the school year....time really flies anymore. This month we will be filled with tons of fun days like Mix and Match Pattern Day, Wild West Day, Pretzel Day, and Pajama Day! We will also, of course, be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with parties and a leprechaun hunt...they can be a little mischievous sometimes so who knows what those leprechauns will be up to this year.....

Jessica Moran, Director

WELCA

Ladies, remember that March 5th is Ash Wednesday and that's the day our committee will be serving a soup lunch after the noon service for everyone. Please come and join us! The Welca Committee, Barb Watts



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Hello Fabulous Families of Grace! In the interest of building relationships between our Sunday School age children, Pastor Raabe and I have decided it is in the best interest of all involved to have Sunday School at **one service**. So, I invite all children 6th grade and younger to join me for children's message and Sunday School at the 10:30 service each Sunday. Looking forward to seeing you all there!

Thank you for all you do! -- Ms. Annette

EMBRACING LAMENT IN OUR LENTEN JOURNEY: Lenten community worship with the churches of Hatfield

We hope to see as many Grace members as possible at this annual series, which this year explores the psalms of lament. **All services are at 7:30 p.m. and include a reception afterward.**

March 12: "What is Lament?" at St. Maria Goretti

March 19: "Little Laments," at Heidelberg United Church of Christ

March 26: "Laments from the Depths," at Plains Mennonite Church

April 2: "Individual Lament," here at Grace

April 9, "Communal Lament," at the Church of the Brethren.



March 2025 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Coffee Hour
3/02/25 8:00 am 10:30 am Transfiguration of our Lord	W. Walter E. Woltmann	G. Lockner L. Kaler	R. Smyrl J. Kaler	Usher Usher	R. Smyrl & D. Ball J. Kaler & K. Stone	Don Capanear
3/05/25 12:00 noon 7:30 pm Ash Wednesday	TBD E. Woltmann	B. Hess L. Boyer	B. Hess J. Shaffer	Usher Usher	Mary Jane Moyer The Sluggs	N/A
3/09/25 8:00 am 10:30 am	W. Walter E. Woltmann	D. Kunkel B. Hess	The Walters B. Hess	Usher Usher	The Walters J. Krout & K. Stone	Cathy Farrell
3/16/25 8:00 am 10:30 am	W. Walter E. Woltmann	K. Seiler J. Kaler	K. Seiler J. Tula	Usher O. Plawa	Seilers & D. Capanear K. Stawasz & K. Heacock	Pastor Raabe
3/23/25 8:00 am 10:30 am	W. Walter E. Woltmann	D. Kunkel C. Farrell	R. Smyrl C. Farrell	Usher Usher	R. Smyrl & K. Seiler MacDonalds	Wendy Walter
3/30/25 8:00 am 10:30 am	W. Walter E. Woltmann	B. Schmidt F. Stone	P. Schmidt B. Krout	Usher Usher	The Walters J. Krout & K. Stone	TBD

Council Offering/Lock-up for March 2025 is: 8:00 am, Wendy Walter; 10:30 am, Tom Salter

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

March 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

Sun Mar 2, 2025	8:00am	Worship
	10:30am	Worship (Sunday School)
Tues Mar 4, 2025	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed Mar 5, 2025	12:00noon	Ash Wednesday Service
	7:30pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Thurs Mar 6, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Committee Meeting, in person, F/H
Sat Mar 8, 2025	6:00pm	"Live Auction" (rescheduled)
Sun Mar 9, 2025	8:00am	Worship -- First Sunday in Lent / Rice Bowl begins
	10:30am	Worship (Sunday School) -- First Sunday in Lent / Rice Bowl begins
Tues Mar 11, 2025	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
Thurs Mar 13, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun Mar 16, 2025	8:00am	Worship
	10:30am	Worship (Sunday School)
Tues Mar 18, 2025	7:00pm	Council Meeting, Zoom option
Thurs Mar 20, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sat Mar 22, 2025	9:30am	Annual Grace Stitch-In, Fellowship Hall
Sun Mar 23, 2025	8:00am	Worship
	10:30am	Worship (Sunday School)
Thurs Mar 27, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun Mar 30, 2025	8:00am	Worship
	10:30am	Worship (Sunday School)

Joyful Noise

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth."

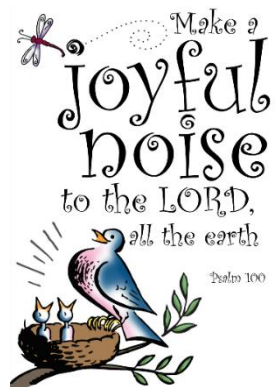
We all know this as the jubilant opening of Psalm 100. Who is the psalmist addressing? Not only birds and other living things – but also YOU.

This verse is not just a figure of speech. It is an exhortation – a command. "Hey you! Make a joyful noise!"

Joyful doesn't always mean nois-y, but there are times when jubilation is called for. Take the closing hymn on February 16, for those of you who were able to attend that day. Here is the first stanza:

1 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus;
his the scepter, his the throne;
Alleluia! his the triumph,
his the victory alone.

Hark! The songs of peaceful Zion
thunder like a mighty flood:
"Jesus out of ev'ry nation
has redeemed us by his blood."



Does that sound like a hymn that we would sing timidly? God wants volume from us!

While the notes tend to be our main focus in hymn singing, I encourage you to pay attention to what we are singing. Martin Luther said that when we sing hymns, we are preaching to each other. A given hymn may be calling for you to sing out more than you're accustomed to. Sing to your fellow worshipers across the sanctuary! Sing to the rafters! Sing to the heavenly choirs which are, of course, at that very moment, singing along with us! "Through the church the song goes on." And on, and on. – *Pastor Raabe*

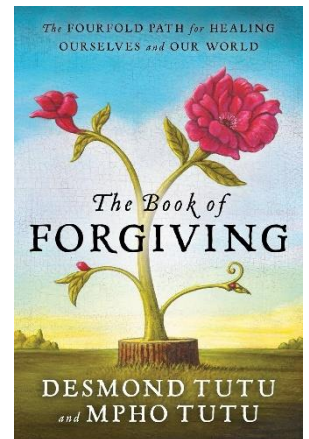
BOOK STUDY: "The Book of Forgiving: The Fourfold Path for Healing Ourselves and Our World"

Thursdays in March – March 6, 13, 20, and 27 – at 12 noon, in person and on Zoom

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89501111627>

There is so much pain and anger in the world. Lives are choked by fury and resentment. These diminish a person's humanity and take their toll on physical health as well. Around us we see the desire for revenge becoming the instinctive response even to minor insults. Do we fall captive to this? In our hearts, every person has the deep need to forgive and to be forgiven. As people of God, how can we help the world to heal?

Bishop Desmond Tutu offers us a fourfold path. "Without forgiveness," he writes, "we remain tethered to the person who harmed us. We are bound by chains of bitterness, tied together, trapped....When we forgive, we take back our own fate and our feelings. We become our own liberators. We don't forgive to help the other person. We don't forgive for others. We forgive for ourselves."



We are all flawed. We all need forgiveness. Explore this aspect of our human identity as we gather in person and online for a Lenten book study Thursdays in March at 12 noon. Members who live out of the area, we especially encourage you to join! We will draw from Bishop Tutu's "The Book of Forgiving." Purchase of the book is not required but may help (it's about \$13 on Amazon). Please contact Pastor Raabe if you want to participate; if you'll be joining by Zoom, she will send you the link directly. Bring your lunch!



Rice Bowl Project begins March 9th

What is the Rice Bowl? During each Sunday in Lent a special offering is observed for the Rice Bowl. These gifts provide food for many in our neighborhood as well as around the world. **In your offering envelope box, special envelopes are provided for each of the six Sundays in Lent.** If you don't have Grace envelopes, plain envelopes are available on the narthex.

Our gifts will be shared with three organizations: **Hatfield Food Cupboard** at Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church which provides food to those in need in the Hatfield area.

Manna on Main Street in Lansdale which provides food and hot meals for those in the Lansdale area.

World Hunger Project through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which provides education and food for people around the globe.

It is our hope that you will consider giving your extra gifts by simplifying your life in some way or by making an intentional effort to put others before your needs and wants. The **Rice Bowl** allows small gifts to come together to make a big difference in the lives of those in need. The *Giving in Service Team* encourages you to share part of your grocery budget by serving one simple meal a week and give that savings to the **Rice Bowl**.

Since the year 2020, Grace members have given a **TOTAL of \$11,913** to help our neighbors near and far.

The **Hatfield Food Cupboard** provides help to people in Hatfield who need food. Shoppers at the Food Cupboard may pick out the foods they need for their family. Our church members donate food to the Hatfield Food Cupboard throughout the year. Our monetary gift allows the Food Cupboard to purchase food items they need, especially when supplies are low.

Manna Kitchen prepares and distributes to-go meals every day for anyone in need.

Monday – Thursday: 10am – 2pm Friday – Sunday: 10am – 1pm

Manna serves a sit-down meal four days per week for anyone in need. **Monday – Thursday: 4:30pm – 6pm**

In addition, Manna provides in-person or online shopping for those who qualify.

Visit their website to see more information about what Manna does. <https://mannaonmain.org>

Through World Hunger your gifts can help people in need around the globe.

ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.



Over the past months, our congregation has held several joint services with Faith Lutheran Church, who are just down Cowpath Road. Some of their members have been volunteering at our Soup Suppers for several months now.

Council feels this is a good time to meet with Faith's leadership to explore other potential partnerships and get to know each other better. We welcome any ideas for developing our relationship with the people of Faith Lutheran.



I would like to thank the INreach Team and the Soup Supper crew for soups, etc. that they have provided me throughout my current illness. Everything is greatly appreciated !

Blessings, Kay Deussing



Prayer List

The full list is now published Parish News, while the list in Grace Notes (weekly newsletter) includes 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, 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), 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, Milford Lyndaker (friend of Karen Seiler), Chelsea Mascaro (Hazel & Jerry's granddaughter), Cheryl Nicholas (Tom Salter's niece), Kathryn Shelly (Will Shaffer's mother-in-law), Tony Miller (Pastor Raabe's cousin), Lisa Ronan (MacDonald's neighbor), the Horowitz Family (good friends of Mary Jane Moyer), Ed Muntz.

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, Gerry Mason (Richard Badman's son), Ann Marie Heidgerd, Pat Ferkitich (friend of Nancy Sellers).

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; Eric Gutsche, Army (Janice Swartz's grandson), Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard.



THE BREAD DROP schedule for March 2025 is: 3/4/25 Karen Seiler; 3/11/25 Priscilla Landis; 3/18/25 Emily Woltmann; 3/25/25 Jess Moran



Food Collection

A quick update from Janet Hague: "We continue to be busy, welcoming over 20 families each week!"

On a recent Tuesday drive by, in 20-degree temperatures at 4:45 pm, this seemed to be quite an understatement. There were at least 10-15 people already waiting out in the cold for the doors to open at 5:30 pm. It is hard to imagine how hungry a person/family must be for someone to stand in the bitter cold just to get a few bags of food and household products. Thank you for all the ways you help to alleviate the immense challenges of our neighbors in need ❤️

Current Needs:

Food items: Canned Meats (Chicken, Beef Stew, Spam), Flour, Sugar, Ground Coffee, Spaghetti Sauce, Dry Pasta (any shape), Cooking Oil, Vinegar (1 qt), Cake & Brownie Mixes

Household & Personal Care*: Shampoo & Body Soap (with caps securely taped on!), 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 EEC when bins are full.

Upcoming distribution dates & times:

Tuesdays 5:30 - 6:30 pm: Mar 4 & 18

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: Mar 11 & 25

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.



2025 Show Tickets

The Laymen Playmen, Inc. proudly present their 37th 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 Webber 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.

Detailed information regarding the show may be found on:

www.laymenplaymen.org Any questions call 215-368-9484



OUR SPRING 'STITCH-IN'



Come and join us for a day of 'stitching'! Bring a project and join the fun as we spend time working on new projects or tackling those unfinished projects! Or – come and learn a new craft from a fellow 'stitcher'! Any type of stitching will do – Embroidery, Cross Stitch, Punch Needle, Crochet, Knitting, and Rug Hooking to name a few.

DATE: Saturday, March 22, 2025

TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ****Doors Open at 9:30 a.m.**

COST: Free Will Offering

PLACE: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 40 North Main Street, Hatfield, PA; ****Across from the Hatfield Post Office**

For Reservations and/or Questions, please contact Peggy Schmidt at (peggy@tailsoftheafterlife.com – 267-222-8449) or Wendy Walter at (wwalter@verizon.net – 215-721-1418)



**Door Prizes & Raffles*

**Snacks, Drink & Lunch will be provided*





EASTER LILIES 2025



Orders for Easter Lilies are now being taken. The flowers will be used for the Easter Services. The DEADLINE for ordering is Sunday, 4/6/25.

You may pick up your plant after the 10:30 am Easter Sunday Service. The plants will be tagged with your name. Regrettably, we are not able to deliver the Lilies to friends or shut-ins.

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

	Quantity	Total Cost
Lilies - \$11.25/7" pot, 3-5 blooms	_____	\$_____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

☐ Check here if you will NOT be taking your Lilly home with you.

Ordered by: _____

Phone No. _____

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

Susanna Faust, Minister of Music

Stepping Stones 215.368.2052

Jessica Moran, Director



March 5th – Ash Wednesday, services at 12 noon
and 7:30 p.m.

March 8th -- “Live Auction” **(rescheduled)**

March 9th – First Sunday in Lent – The Rice Bowl project begins

March 22nd -- Annual Grace Stitch-In, Fellowship Hall

View our website by scanning this code



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