



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

July 2025

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

www.gracelutheranhatfield.org

Dear Grace,

Summer Greetings

I feel blessed to be serving among you this summer. I've had fun getting to know you over the past three Sunday mornings. I am finding you to be open, responsive, flexible, and willing to try new things. These are traits and characteristics that are important for you as you begin the process of discerning where God is leading you in the future. The number one thing I have focused on is worship, seeking to enliven your worship service and help you experience more joy, passion, and enthusiasm as you worship the Lord.

To that end, we had a "Grace Talk" on worship. Despite short notice, and on top of that, it was also Father's Day – but even still, many of you participated in a very informal discussion on Worship. You discussed what was important to you in your worship experience. You want to sing more familiar hymns – you are open to learning new hymns, but not all on the same Sunday. You like the bells in worship, the guitar, and other instruments. You were concerned that people are too spread out in the sanctuary, which makes it difficult for you to encourage one another with your singing. On the next page is a picture of the news sheet from that forum. In the meeting, I mentioned that the worship at Grace seemed a bit flat, and it was. However, today, on June 22, you were much more responsive. I could hear you; you sang out loud, trying a new hymn of praise. I felt the Spirit in your midst. I think you felt it too. Because at the end of the service, I commented that you were livelier in worship – you clapped with Joy.

Grace, if, in one week, you can make a noticeable change in worship, I think you are on your way to making many other changes that will benefit you in your discernment of what is next for the congregation. The big question that you will all be answering is: What do we want in our future, next year, and five years from now? Do we want another full-time pastor? Can we afford full-time? What about a part-time pastor? What about a shared ministry with another local Lutheran congregation? There are many other possibilities for the future. But what is God calling you to commit to in Grace's future?

At the last Congregational Council, they asked me to lead another forum with you on July 13 after our worship. I hope you can stay, and we will begin to think out loud together about our hopes, dreams, and wishes for our congregation.

In August, we are planning a Breakfast church, where we will eat together in the social hall, and after breakfast, we will have church at the breakfast table. After worship, we will continue our discussion on what is next for the congregation and take the dialogue deeper than when we first spoke together on July 13th.

Please keep your eyes and ears open, as we do not yet have a date set for Breakfast Church. -

I am loving serving alongside you, and I look forward to learning where and what God is leading you.

Looking forward to growing with you this summer.

Many Blessings,
Pastor Littleton
Transition Pastor

CALL PROCESS UPDATE

Subj: What's Next Meetings

You are invited to another of our discussions about the future of Grace. This one will be held on July 13, at approximately 10:30, following the church service. The main question will be, "What do you see for Grace 5 years in future?" We are hoping you all will come prepared to offer your thoughts so that we can have an open and wide-ranging discussion. A follow up question might be, "What can you do to help us get there?" We expect to schedule a Zoom session for an evening later than week.

Call Process Update	2
Sunday School & VBS	5
Stepping Stones	5
Serving Schedule	6
WELCA	6
Calendar	7
Picnics	8
EEC Food Cupboard	8
Prayer List	9

We met on June 8 to update the congregation about what we, the council, know about the process going forward.

Pastor Littleton held an informal discussion after church on June 15th to discuss what we like, dislike or want to change about worship.

This is an ongoing process of discerning what is best for Grace. Please have patience and participate in the process as you are able.

Tom Salter

1. Welcome – Thank you for coming out

Goal of Meeting is to share where we are at – and where do we go from here

2. Current Pastor Situation

- We are pleased to have Pastor Dee Littleton with us. Please be sure to read her biography in the June Parish News – she comes with a wealth of experience and knowledge and is sure to be a blessing to us in the transition process.
- She is currently contracted for Sunday Services plus 10-15 hours per week. Her current contract with us lasts through Labor Day weekend, with the possibility of an extension by mutual agreement.
- She will normally be in the office on Tuesday mornings. She will attend Council meetings and most likely Worship & Music meetings. Other meetings may be attended as needed.

3. What have we done so far:

We have had meetings with Synod Representatives: Dean Julie DeWerth, Bishop Penman and Pastor Karen Sease, Asst. to the Bishop for Congregations. Based on these discussions, we were made aware of some of the challenges that we will be faced with in our search for our new Pastor:

- We are one of four Lutheran congregations (out of 6) in the Indian Valley Cluster that are looking for a new Pastor. The others being Christ Kulpsville, Little Zion in Telford, and Emmanuel in Souderton
- The number of people graduating from Seminary is declining
- There are not as many Pastors looking for new positions

- d. Synod reviewed our budget to see if we could afford a full-time Pastor; They determined that we could afford a young Seminary graduate that does not have a family.

****One positive is that we live in a prime area that could draw a new Pastoral Candidate.**

4. What are our Options?

- a. Call a Full-Time Pastor
- b. Call a Part-Time Pastor that we would possibly share with another congregation.

5. Pros/Concerns:

****Important to remember that whichever way we go, it will take time to find a Pastor due to supply/demand**

a. Calling a Full-Time Pastor

Pros:

- We continue with a Pastor full-time that shares in the full ministry of the church

Concerns:

- Cost for a New Pastor to fit within our budget – best option would be to call someone straight out of Seminary

b. Calling a Part-Time Pastor/Share a Pastor with another Congregation

Pros:

- The cost would alleviate financial concerns (Saving ~ \$3,500.00 per month)

Concerns:

- The congregation would have to assume some duties that a Part-Time pastor would not handle (things such as Pastor Care/Visits, Community Relations, Education)
- If we are sharing a Pastor with another congregation, we will have to work out the scheduling of the services and office time between 2 churches

Comparison of Pastor's Salary w/Benefits

	2024	2025 First Call	2025
	Pastor Raabe	(Single 27 Y/O)	Experienced (37 YO w/Family)
Salary, Housing, SSA	\$87,025.50	\$79,664.01	\$83,028.08
Retirement	10,443.06	9,559.68	9,963.36
Health Insurance	7,017.40	8,484.00	30,672.00
Other	1,147.62	4,398.40	4,415.20
Total	\$105,633.58	\$102,106.09	\$128,078.64

6. Budgetary Concerns:

- a. We have had to pull money from funds to cover our expenses
- b. Major Fund Balances as of 12/31/24
 - Capital Fund Balance \$54,931
 - Reserve Fund 15,405
 - Payroll Tax Credit 57,796
- c. Congregation Trends – as a general rule of thumb, a congregation needs an average attendance of about 75 per week to support a full-time pastor

7. Faith Lutheran in Montgomeryville – Local Church with a Part-Time Pastor (a few highlights of what we have learned from them)

- a. We have had a few joint services with Faith over the past few years
- b. Several of their members help with our Thursday Soup Suppers
- c. They currently have a part-time Pastor, Ethan Doan
- d. They currently share their Pastor with Jerusalem Lutheran in Sellersville on a $\frac{3}{4}$ (Faith) and $\frac{1}{4}$ (Jerusalem) basis.
- e. It works for them based on the size and budget of their congregation
- f. Rich, their current Council President, is currently enrolled in Seminary – he was here on Sunday for Pastor Raabe's retirement.

8. Grace & Faith Together - ????

- a. Synod had mentioned that we might be good Partners
- b. A 'Merger' is not currently an option under consideration
- c. Could we possibly share Pastor Ethan with them? – We would not consider sharing a Pastor out of "necessity" without getting to know if they would be a good 'fit' for our congregation.
- d. FYI – Pastor Ethan does not live locally and would most likely not be looking to move to this area permanently

9. What's Next?

- Based on today's feedback, we are considering having additional small group meetings to address thoughts and concerns as we work to discern how to proceed.

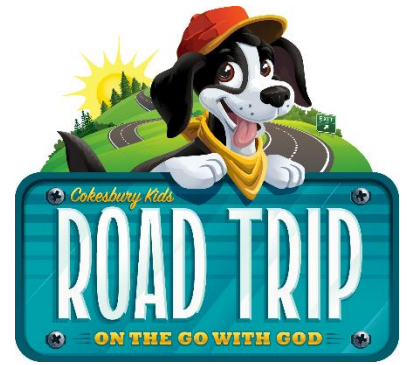


SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Attention Grace Families: Sunday School will continue in the summer. I invite you all to join me!

Grace will be partnering with other area churches for Vacation Bible School this year. Join us on July 28-31 for a "Road Trip - On the go with God" at Little Zion Church in Franconia. Volunteers are needed and if you can't be there in person there are other ways you can help; check the display in the narthex for supplies needed. Check registration details by following the link: <https://bit.ly/Roadtrip2025>

Thanks, Annette



STEPPING STONES

Congratulations to our pre-kindergarten 2025 graduates !!



Stepping Stones is growing this Summer and not in the ways we normally are! This Summer classrooms are raising ladybugs, tadpoles, and butterflies as we learn about life cycles and how the world around us works! Friends are also planting seeds from all around our property, whether dandelion or whirly gig, no seed is too boring! We just wanna know what happens! Check us out on our new digital picture frames located in the hallways outside of each classroom!

This month Stepping Stones will be closed on 7/4 for the Fourth of July and we are looking forward to Pretzel Day on 7/10, National Hot Dog Day on 7/16, Pajama Days, Teddy Bear Picnics, and even International Tiger Day! It's going to be a fantastic Summer! Stay cool out there!

Jessica Moran, Director

July 2025 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Altar Flower Prep
7/06/25 9:15 am	S. Wieland	F. Stone	F. Stone	Usher	D. Kunkel & K. Deussing	K. Stone
7/13/25 9:15 am	S. Wieland	L. Kaler	Walter Family	Olivia Plawa	Walter Family	J. Kaler
7/20/25 9:15 am	S. Wieland	D. Kunkel	P. Schmidt	Usher	D. Ball & R. Smyrl	E. Woltmann
7/27/25 9:15 am	S. Wieland	F. Stone	J. Shaffer	Usher	Slugg Family	K. Stone

Council Offering/Lock-up for July 2025 is: TBD

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm



THE BREAD DROP schedule for July 2025 is: 7/1/25 Laura Kratz; 7/8/25 Jean Delmuto; 7/15/25 Emily Woltmann; 7/22/25 Karen Seiler; 7/29/25 Jess Moran

WELCA

Ladies, thank you for coming to our wonderful annual picnic at the Salters. It was a great sunny, warm day ☀️ and nice seeing Joyce once again! Again, thank you to the Salters; we all enjoyed our day. Sorry Lisa B couldn't be with us at that time.

We don't have any meetings during the summer but will meet in September. More information will be sent out in August. Take care and stay healthy. Barb

NOTE: Barb Hess, chair of the Memorials Committee, reports that memorial funds were recently used to purchase and install a hot water heater in the kitchen and to upgrade the wireless sound system in the sanctuary.

July 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 7:00 pm.
- Tues. are Bread Drop Sandwich Days. Donations are accepted from 8am-7pm.
- Yoga will resume in September !

Monday, June 30th through Thursday, July 3rd---Lynn off for vacation all week

Tues July 1 , 2025	7:00pm	Stitchers
Thurs July 3, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Fri July 4, 2025		Stepping Stones closed for the 4th of July Holiday

Sun July 6, 2025	9:15am	Worship (Sunday School)
Mon July 7, 2025	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Committee Meeting, via Zoom
Tues July 8, 2025	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Thurs July 10, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper

Sun July 13, 2025	9:15am	Worship (Sunday School)
Tues July 15, 2025	7:00pm	Council Meeting, Zoom option
Wed July 16, 2025	6:30pm	Summer picnic at Barb Watts' home
Thurs July 17, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper

Sun July 20, 2025	9:15am	Worship (Sunday School)
Thurs July 24, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper

Sun July 27, 2025	9:15am	Worship (Sunday School)
July 28-31 (Mon to Thurs)		Vacation Bible School at Little Zion Church in Franconia
Thurs July 31, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper



During the months of July and August, with many people away and enjoying some much-needed rest, we will not be holding coffee hour after our 9:15 service. We plan to resume this social time after Labor Day. We are always looking for new hosts so if you can set up coffee hour or have any ideas about how to give it an update, please get in touch with Cathy Farrell. Enjoy your summer, everyone!



From Cindy Mancuso: "I would like to give a big thank you to Carol MacDonald and the INreach Team for all the food I received. Very much appreciated !"

Summer Wednesday Evening Fellowship Gatherings

- Join us for dinner and fellowship. Dinner is at **6:30 pm**.
- Bring your favorite **picnic dish** to share and a lawn chair or blanket.
- If you have a favorite **outdoor game** to share, bring it too.

Event is rain or shine!!

- **July 16th** Host: Barb Watts, at her home; 147 N. Main Street, Hatfield
- **August 20th** Hosts: Grace Council Members, at Grace



**Food
Collection**

EEC FOOD CUPBOARD

The Emmanuel Food Cupboard welcomed 72 unduplicated families to the food cupboard last month. We're grateful for donations from the Stamp Out Hunger drive, Grace Lutheran Church, Bethany Bible Fellowship, Garden of Health, and Dave Kratz (retiring Thrivent representative).

Current needs are:

dry pasta (any shape)

pasta sauce

sugar and flour

salad dressing

ground coffee

toothpaste

shampoo

razors and shaving cream



Prayer List

The full list is now published in 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 the office (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, 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), Connie Plawa (Lynn's sister-in-law), Priscilla (Shaffer) Hollerbach, Milford Lyndaker (friend of Karen Seiler), Chelsea Mascaro (Hazel & Jerry's granddaughter), 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, Bridget Hopkins (friend of Don Capanear), Dawn Kownacki (friend of Harold Schaefer), Jeff Hill (Sue Wieland's nephew), Steve Johnsson and Morgan (friends of Beth Krout), Judi McBain (friend of Linda Pribbernow), Nancy Rocheleau (Bruce Schmidt's sister), Mary Jane Moyer, Lisa Boyer.

For all who grieve, including the family & friends of: Sally Muntz, Gerry Mason (Richard Badman's son), Ann Marie Heidgerd, Pat Ferkitich (friend of Nancy Sellers), Dee Mancuso, Atticus Jones (Lynn & Mike Oxenford's nephew).

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), Eric Gutsche, Army (Janice Swartz's grandson).

For active military deployed overseas: Kyle Murphy, Air Force; Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard.

YOGA takes a break for the summer ☺



Thank you to everyone who attended Yoga class. As always, we had a great turnout every week. We will begin again in September. Details to follow. We look forward to seeing you then. Questions - contact Kathy Stawasz 215-760-6297

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Jessica Moran, Director



**Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy 4th of July
Holiday !**

View our website by scanning this code:



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