



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

August 2025

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

www.gracelutheranhatfield.org

Dear Grace,
Greetings!

If you were to read the book of Acts, you would discover that the early church often gathered for worship around a table and a meal. The early church often referred to these as Agape Meals: God's love meals. Earlier in the Gospels, we see that this is one of Jesus' favorite ways to teach – over a meal-time conversation.

So, in one sense, Breakfast Church is nothing new. It is an ancient biblical tradition that we will observe on **August 24th**. We will have a fun and spirit-filled time as we eat together, worship, and discuss our faith around the table. It is my prayer that this day will be memorable, even transformative, as we gather as a church family.

The purpose of gathering for Breakfast Church is for us to connect with God, connect with one another, and grow together as the people of God. **We at Grace Church are one team!** We pull together and seek to learn from each other; we find ways to be the church better together, and we carry each other's burdens. We see and honor God's image in one another and know that very often, God shows up to us in the face of people around us.

We hope that by gathering as Breakfast Church, we will form deeper connections with one another, seeing God's grace shine through those around us and even seeing ourselves in a new light as we go through this time of transition together.

The physical setup of Breakfast Church will feature seating around tables instead of chairs lined up and all facing forward. This will help us align with our shared goals. Our format values and reflects the things we desire to see —hearing the voices of each one of us, not just one person talking up front; having ways for all to contribute —both to give and to receive.

There's a place at the table for **you!** Our children and teens are welcome to join us for our church family meal.

We encourage you to sign up – so we can reserve a place for you at the table. In the Narthex, there is a sign-up sheet – also indicating what food you will bring to share. If you're not a cook and breakfast casseroles aren't your thing, we also need juices, Danish, donuts, and fresh fruit. If you are away and will not be in the building between now and breakfast, you can call Lynn at [215-855-4676](tel:215-855-4676) and let her know how many will be in your party and what you plan to bring.

I am looking forward to having Breakfast Church with you on the 24th!

Please feel free to call me or email me if you want to talk about faith, life, or about the changes you see or hope to see at Grace.

Together, we are Grace Church.

In Christ, Pastor Littleton

Transition Pastor

DrDee3@gmail.com, 610- 213-9725

Pastor Littleton	1
Breakfast Church	2
One Service	3
Ministry Team Spotlight	3
Serving Schedule	4
Calendar	5
Sunday School	5
Stepping Stones	6
Harvest Home	7
EEC Food Cupboard	8
Parking Lot Paving	8
Prayer List	9

Breakfast Church Table Manners

Adapted from www.thepeoplesupper.org

We Agree:

That there may be some things that we disagree on. But as we sit down at Grace Breakfast Church, we choose to agree on this:

- I welcome you and your story, and I thank you for welcoming me and mine.
- I will show up, be open, and contribute to creating a compassionate space.
- As I speak and listen, I will show you respect, whether I agree or disagree with what's been shared.

At the table, we will:

- **Respect the dignity of every human being**—this includes one another, those who think differently in the wider community, and public figures
- **Keep it confidential.** Others' stories are not ours to share
- **Stick with "I" statements** ("I had an experience when...", "I feel..."). We honor and respect that your experience is yours and others' experiences are theirs.
- **Listen to each other and the Spirit**—listen to receive and understand, not to refute or plan a response.
- **Take space/make space**—Quieter people are encouraged to speak up as they feel comfortable; folks who typically talk more are encouraged to be self-aware, making space for others to share
- Agree to **not "fix" other members of the group or give advice (unless asked for)**

Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4:29, ESV)





Coming Soon: One Service every Sunday at 9:30!

After much discussion by both the Worship and Music Committee and Church Council, Council has voted to continue with a **single Sunday service after Labor Day.**

Going to a single service enables us to worship together while we work on our future plans. It will also make it easier for us to find supply pastors when needed. Starting at 9:30 gives our choir an opportunity to rehearse at 9:00. This is a temporary measure that will be readdressed once we have a settled pastor.



Ministry Team Spotlight

Spotlight on *Giving In Service*

The Giving In Service Team meets four times during the year to support local and global outreach initiatives. Our mission focuses on aiding agencies within our community and beyond, with ongoing projects supported by our congregation's generosity.

Current OUTreach projects:

- **Laurel House:** Provides assistance for women and children in Montgomery County. We support them through both our **Valentine's Day** and **Mother's Day Carnations** fundraisers.
- **Food Support:** During Lent, the **Rice Bowl Offering** benefits *The Food Cupboard* at Emmanuel Evangelical Congregational Church, *Manna on Main Street* in Lansdale, and the *World Hunger Appeal* through the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.
- **Harvest Home** (September): Collecting food for The Hatfield Food Cupboard and Manna on Main Street.
- **Crop Walk:** Annual fundraising event in Lansdale for local and global causes.
- **Adopt a Family:** Supports Stepping Stones families. We purchase gift cards, gifts and food items for these families.
- We encourage year-round food donations and volunteering at the **Hatfield Food Cupboard.**
- **Our latest outreach project: *Bridge of Hope*** helps single moms struggling to avoid homelessness. *It is a support system for these women to help them navigate through life challenges. Members of Grace would form a small group of 6 or 7 people who would like to be part of a support system for one woman.*

If you would like to know more about **Bridge of Hope**, contact Cathy Farrell.

Our congregation's continued involvement makes a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

The Giving In Service Team

Jean Shaffer, Diane Ball, Carol MacDonald, Barbara Watts, Kay Deussing, Cathy Farrell and Kay Stone

August 2025 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Altar Flower Prep
8/03/25 9:15 am	B. Hess	J. Kaler	B. Hess	Usher	D. Kunkel	TBD
8/10/25 9:15 am	B. Hess & E. Woltmann	J. Kaler	K. Seiler	Usher	P. Schmidt & K. Seiler	J. Kaler
8/17/25 9:15 am	B. Hess	C. MacDonald	C. MacDonald	Usher	P. MacDonald & D. Capanear	C. MacDonald
8/24/25 9:15 am	B. Hess	K. Stawasz	B. Krout	Usher	J. Krout & K. Deussing	K. Stawasz
8/31/25 (Labor Day) 9:15 am	TBD	C. Farrell	C. Farrell	Usher	D. Capanear & D. Kunkel	TBD

Council Offering/Lock-up for August 2025 is: TBD
Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm



THE BREAD DROP schedule for August 2025 is: 8/5/25 Priscilla Landis; 8/12/25 Jess Moran; 8/19/25 Jean Delmuto; 8/26/25 Emily Woltmann



I recently received a note from Pastor Raabe thanking us once again for her retirement gifts and in particular the gift to the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. She wrote, in part,

"... I did want again to say how much I appreciate the idea of this gift for my retirement. Like the others, it was creative and inspired. My gratitude to all who contributed!"

I would also like to thank all those who contributed to the monetary gift and also to those who made the retirement party successful.

Tom Salter

August 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 !

Sun August 3 , 2025	9:15am	Worship (<u>NO</u> Sunday School)
Tue August 5, 2025	7:00pm	Stitchers
Thurs August 7, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun August 10, 2025	9:15am	Worship (Sunday School)
Tues August 12, 2025	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Thurs August 14, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun August 17, 2025	9:15am	Worship – <i>Harvest Home Collection begins</i> (Sunday School)
Mon August 18, 2025	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Committee Meeting, via Zoom
Tues August 19, 2025	7:00pm	Council Meeting, Zoom option
Wed August 20, 2025	6:30pm	Last Summer Picnic at Grace
Thurs August 21, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sat August 23, 2025	11-7:30pm	Fellowship Hall Rental
Sun August 24, 2025	9:15am	Worship – “Breakfast Church” in Fellowship Hall
Mon August 25, 2025		<i>Stepping Stones Closed All Week</i>
		Parking Lot Paving, parking lot will not be accessible
		<i>(specific days will be listed in Grace Notes and on the website)</i>
Tue August 26, 2025		NO BREAD DROP, because of the parking lot paving
	7:00pm	InReach Meeting
Thurs August 28, 2025	5:30pm	Thursday Soup Supper
Sun August 31, 2025	9:15am	Worship (Sunday School)
Mon Sept 1, 2025		Office & Stepping Stones Closed
		<i>Happy Labor Day !</i>



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

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

If you think the kids seem quiet, that's because schedules are busy during the summer. Youth activities will resume in the fall. Look for new activities in the September newsletter. Peace, Annette

STEPPING STONES

Hard to believe that the end of Summer is already upon us and we are prepping for the Fall. It feels like time is going faster and faster, anymore. For the month of August we are keeping busy with a lot of fun spirit days such as Wear Your Favorite Sports Team Day, Sunglasses Day, and an end of the Summer water ice party! Stepping Stones will be closed for the week of August 25th-August 29th for our annual school cleaning; Stepping Stones will also be closed on Monday, September 1 for Labor Day but will re-open for the start of the new school year on 9/2! Looking forward to another great year ahead!

Jessica Moran, Director



January	February	March
Given by _____ for _____	Given by _____ for _____	Given by _____ for _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
April	May	June
Given by _____ for _____	Given by _____ for _____	Given by _____ for _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
July	August	September
Given by _____ for _____	Given by _____ for _____	Given by _____ for _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
October	November	December
Given by _____ for _____	Given by _____ for _____	Given by _____ for _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Did you know that we have openings for you to place flowers in the church to celebrate and honor life's special events?

In the Narthex, you can sign up for a date that is closest to a birthday or an Anniversary.

The flowers cost: \$17 each. You can pay that amount by cash in the offering plate or send in a check. Envelopes for this purpose are on the bulletin board just below the sign-up sheet. You can also call Lynn and let her know what date and she can add your name to the sign-up sheet and take your dedication at that time.



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 Donna Galbraith: "Dear Grace members, On behalf of my mother, Kitty Heckler, I sincerely thank you for all the recent cards and kind gestures, especially all the wonderful books collected. She thinks of Grace Lutheran and its members often and has a lifetime of memories to recall. Thank you again, Donna



Laurel House sent Grace Lutheran Church a note thanking us for 25 years of support and contributions.

Summer Wednesday Evening Fellowship Gatherings

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

Event is rain or shine!!

Final Picnic date for the summer:

- **August 20th** Hosts: Grace Council Members, at Grace



**Harvest Home Collection
will begin
Sunday, August 17th**

Our gifts of food will be shared with
Manna on Main Street in Lansdale and
the Hatfield Food Cupboard
at Emmanuel Evangelical
Congregational Church



EEC FOOD CUPBOARD

A message from Janet Hague: Emmanuel's food cupboard welcomed 73 families in the past month. Your donations, along with those from local individuals, Garden of Health, Mitzvah Circle Foundation, and Bergey Family Foundation helped to keep the shelves stocked. Thank you for your faithful support!

Current Needs:

Food items: 100% Juice, Flour, Sugar, Ground Coffee, Dry Pasta

Household & Personal Care*: Toothpaste, Shampoo & Conditioner (with caps securely taped on!)

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: August 5 and 19

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: August 12 and 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.

Church Parking Lot Paving

PLEASE NOTE: Sure Seal will be doing the sealing of our parking lot. The work is scheduled to be completed during the week of August 25, when Stepping Stones is closed to students. Crack sealing has already been completed. Line striping is usually done on the evening of the day of sealing. **THE PARKING LOT MAY NOT BE DRIVEN ON FOR 48 HOURS AFTER COMPLETION.** This work includes the two entrance/exits. The exact day that week will be weather dependent and will be posted in *Grace Notes*.



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, Pastor Janet Peterman, Daisy Wiesinger (friend of MC Reilly and member of Laymen Playmen), John Alexiades (friend of Bruce Schmidt).

For all who grieve, including the family & friends of: Sally Muntz, Ann Marie Heidgerd, Pat Ferkitich (friend of Nancy Sellers), Dee Mancuso, Atticus Jones (Lynn & Mike Oxenford's nephew), Clark Rex (Kathy Stawasz's dad).

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), Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard.

For active military deployed overseas: Kyle Murphy, Air Force.

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

Grace Lutheran Church
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

August 17th

Harvest Home Collection begins

August 20th

Last Summer Picnic at Grace

August 24th

Worship – “Breakfast Church” in
Fellowship Hall

August 25th

Stepping Stones Closed All Week
Parking Lot Paving,
parking lot will not be accessible
(specific days will be listed in Grace Notes)

August 26th

NO BREAD DROP, because of the parking lot paving

Sept 1st

Office & Stepping Stones Closed
Happy Labor Day !



View our website by scanning this code:



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