



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

September 2025

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

www.gracelutheranhatfield.org

Dear Grace Church,

Thank you for your warm welcome, kindness, and openness to me as we began this transition at Grace. This will be my last monthly letter, but I will be with you until Sunday, October 12th.

On August 24th we had a lot of fun and good fellowship at Breakfast Church, and I hope you saw the benefit of sitting around the table and having a conversation together about life and faith. Some people even suggested that we do this again real soon. Perhaps once a quarter would be a good start. I know it took a lot of work for folks to set up the room, clean up in the kitchen, and break everything down again. You did a great job! It was great seeing so many of you stepping up to do what needed to be done. Thank you! There are a lot of great cooks at Grace; we had enough food for at least two breakfast feasts.

I know this is a challenging time for you as you begin the process of determining what is next for your congregation. I am sure there continues to be many feelings surfacing from being scared and excited, anxiety, grief, to questioning and wondering what's next. Yes, there is a lot of uncertainty! But know this, we still worship a God who is there for us with God's constant care and provision. Day by day, hour by hour, God will be with you! You and I may not know what is next for Grace Lutheran, but our God knows, and God has your future in His hands. This is a time for you to trust God and look to God for all that you need. It is also a time for you to be engaged with your time, talents, and many resources. It is time for you to roll up your sleeve and do God's work in this community. Instead of relying on a pastor for leadership in everything, it is time for you to explore your gifts and say, "Here I am, Lord, send me." And, "Lord, I am not sure how, but I am willing to try and learn".

With this in mind, there has been some conversation at Council regarding the **Home Communion Visitation Group** being active again. I understand that it has been a while since folks were doing this – it became defunct during the COVID shutdown. However, now there is some interest in us getting the program up and running again. –

I am considering two possible dates for a training session to take place after church on a Sunday morning. – either Sunday Sept. 21st or 28th. It will be a 2.5-hour training session, during which we will discuss Communion Theology, the practical needs for administering Communion, and conduct a role-play of making home visits. Please notify the church office of your preferred date. If there is enough to run the training, I am willing to do it for both dates. I would like to have at least three people at the training. Again, thanks for the blessing of granting me the opportunity to serve with you since June. You are a delightful community of faith with many strengths. Keep the faith and keep on trusting the Lord.

In Christ, Pastor Littleton

DrDee3@gmail.com, 610- 213-9725

Pastor Littleton	1
Call Process Update	2
Ministry Spotlight	2
One Service	2
Serving Schedule	3
Calendar	4
Sunday School	4
Stepping Stones	5
2026 Serving Volunteers	6
Harvest Home	7
Yoga	8
EEC Food Cupboard	8
Prayer List	9

NEWS! Call Process Update

The Synod has identified a person to serve as our Interim Pastor beginning immediately after Pr. Littleton's last Sunday on October 12. This will be considered a half-time position. Council will interview him at our September meeting. If we mutually agree that we are a good fit for each other, we will offer a contract. After that we will be able to share biographical information and more details about his work with us.



Beginning September 7th:

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.



Spotlight on "Fellowship Committee"

The Fellowship Committee came into being at the end of 2024. Its main purpose is to plan and run social events for Grace members (and our friends and family) so we can get to know each other better and, simply, have fun! We are trying to hold an event quarterly - so we are due for our next one! Since its inception, we have had the family party to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas; a "clean out your attic" auction; and a trivia night (that met with great acclaim). The committee also helps out when set-up or other assistance is needed when various gatherings are happening at Grace.

The committee consists of Diane Ball, Sue Wieland, Lisa Boyer, and Lou Farrell and is chaired by Cathy Farrell. We would love to hear YOUR ideas for social gatherings (aka, fun events) for our Grace family and friends and would certainly welcome more members. Also, Cathy will be asking for volunteers to host coffee hour after our church services, starting again in September - hosts (and someone to clean up) are always needed and it's a nice and super easy way to give a little something to the folks at Grace. No special skills are required, and it takes very little time.

So please share your ideas and maybe a bit of your time to make Grace a fun and welcoming place to be!

Thank you, Cathy

September 2025 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Communion Assistant	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Altar Flower Prep
9/07/25 <u>First Sunday at New time!</u> 9:30 am	E. Woltmann	J. Kaler	J. Kaler	L. Kaler	W. & D. Walter	J. Kaler
9/14/25 9:30 am	D. Capanear	D. Kunkel	T. Sarm	Usher	K. Heacock & K. Deussing	TBD
9/21/25 9:30 am	D. Capanear	D. Kunkel	D. Kunkel	Usher	D. Capanear & K. Stone	K. Stone
9/28/25 9:30 am <i>Harvest Home</i>	E. Woltmann	C. Farrell	C. Farrell	Usher	J. Krout & K. Deussing	E. Woltmann

Council Offering/Lock-up for September 2025 is: Cathy Farrell

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm



THE BREAD DROP schedule for September 2025 is: 9/2/25 Karen Seiler; 9/9/25 Jess Moran; 9/16/25 Priscilla Landis; 9/23/25 Laura Kratz; 9/30/25 Jean Delmuto



We recently received a note from the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians thanking Grace for the “wonderfully generous gift in honor of Pastor Nancy Raabe’s retirement.” The letter and thank you are posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

I would also like to thank all those who contributed to the monetary gift as well ! Tom Salter

WELCA

I can’t believe how fast summer went and now we are approaching September. Our first Welca meeting is on Wednesday, September 3rd at 10:00 am. We are always hoping for new members.

Take care and stay healthy, Barb Watts

September 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 begins again on **Wednesday, September 10, 2025**

Mon Sept 1, 2025

Office & Stepping Stones Closed

Happy Labor Day !

Tue Sept 2, 2025 7:00pm

Stitchers

Wed Sept 3, 2025 10:00am

WELCA Meeting

Thurs Sept 4, 2025 5:30pm

Thursday Soup Supper

Sun Sept 7, 2025 9:30am

FIRST SUNDAY AT NEW WORSHIP TIME (Sunday School)

Tues Sept 9, 2025 7:00pm

Property Team Meeting

7:00pm

Worship & Music Team Meeting

Wed Sept 10, 2025 6:15pm

First YOGA Class

Thurs Sept 11, 2025 5:30pm

Thursday Soup Supper

7:00pm

Stepping Stones Committee Meeting, in person

Sun Sept 14, 2025 9:30am

Worship (Sunday School)

10:30am

Youth Group Meeting after worship in Fellowship Hall

Tues Sept 16, 2025 7:00pm

Council Meeting, Zoom option

Thurs Sept 18, 2025 5:30pm

Thursday Soup Supper

Sun Sept 21, 2025 9:30am

Worship (Sunday School)

Thurs Sept 25, 2025 5:30pm

Thursday Soup Supper

Sun Sept 28, 2025 9:30am

Worship (Sunday School) -- *Harvest Home Sunday*



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Attention Grace Families:

Why is Youth Ministry important?

Youth ministry is important for nurturing the faith of the next generation of believers, preparing them to be future leaders and faithful disciples. It helps strengthen the overall health of the church and its outreach, while providing a space for teenagers to grow in faith and develop essential life skills within a supportive community.

Youth Group will begin again in September. I invite all youth grades 7-12 and their parents to join me on **Sunday 9/14 in the Fellowship Hall after church.** We will have a brief meeting that day to discuss times and activities. Hope to see you there!

In Christ's Service, Annette



STEPPING STONES

Excuse me, but, where did Summer go? It's already September and we are ready for a new school year at Stepping Stones! This promises to be a banner year as we look towards future upcoming events and projects such as Parent's Night Out, our famous Fall Festival, and, if all goes according to plan, the introduction of our gardening program! Keep an eye on us this year....we're going to be busy and can't wait to share with you!

Jessica Moran, Director

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

URGENT....Altar flower sponsors needed for the rest of the year. If we do not receive sponsors by the end of September we will need to start using silk flowers every Sunday. Also, we do not have a budget for altar flowers as we are dependent on sponsors.

The flowers cost: \$17 each. In the Narthex, you can sign up for a date that is closest to a birthday or an Anniversary. 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.



2026 Serving Schedule volunteers.....Yes, it's that time of year to start setting up the 2026 serving schedule. I will set up as 1 schedule with the service at 9:30 am. 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 - Kay Stone 215-368-3725, kaystone@comcast.net

Live Streaming - Harold Schaefer
484-576-0611, schaeferh_19440@yahoo.com

Thanks in advance for volunteering!

Kathy
215-760-6297



Harvest Home Sunday

September 28th

What: Harvest Home Project

When: Now through September 28th

Sponsored by: The Giving in Service Team

Donations of canned goods and non-perishables will benefit the Hatfield Food Cupboard and Manna on Main Street in Lansdale.

Donations through your Harvest Home offering envelope will be given to ELCA World Hunger to help our neighbors in other countries.

Help fill the table in the Narthex with your food donations !

Suggested Shopping List for Harvest Home

Jelly

Dry pasta, any shape (spaghetti and lasagna too)

Tomato sauce and paste

Cereal

Granola Bars

Oatmeal (instant and regular)

Coffee and Black Tea Bags

Flour and Sugar

Spam and Sardines

Body wash and bar soap

Shampoo and conditioner

Toothbrushes and toothpaste

Men and Women's shaving cream and razors

Laundry detergent



YOGA (Hatha) CLASS Back by Popular Demand. Class will begin on Wednesday, September 10 and run each week through December 10, 2025 from 6:15-7:15pm. 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, 40 N. Main Street, Hatfield, PA

COST: \$7/class (Make checks payable to: Grace Lutheran Church)

WHO: Ages 18 and up

What is needed: exercise mat (let me know if you need one) Invite a friend or family member, everyone is welcome. Questions Contact Kathy Stawasz at 215-760-6297.



EEC FOOD CUPBOARD

A message from Janet Hague: *"We welcomed 71 unduplicated families to the food cupboard in July. Donations from Garden of Health, Mitzvah Circle Foundation, and Grace Lutheran helped to keep the shelves stocked, along with produce from Emmanuel's garden."* Thank you for continuing to offer care & support to our Hatfield community ❤️

Current Needs (also noted in the Harvest Home list):

Food items: Jelly, Cereal, Oatmeal (Regular and Instant), Flour, Sugar, Granola Bars, Black Tea Bags, Ground Coffee, Dry Pasta (ANY type), Spam, Sardines, Tomato Sauce & Paste

Household & Personal Care*: Toothpaste & Toothbrushes, Shampoo & Conditioner (with caps securely taped on!), Razors & Shaving Cream, Body Wash & Bar Soap, Laundry Detergent

Gift Cards: Grocery gift cards are always welcome and very helpful, especially ALDI & Giant!

NOT needed at this time: Canned vegetables, peanut butter, rice, and diapers

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: September 2, 16, & 30

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: September 9 & 23

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.



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), 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), Lisa Ronan (MacDonald's neighbor), the Horowitz Family (good friends of Mary Jane Moyer), Ed Muntz, Bridget Hopkins (friend of Don Capanear), 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), Beth Krout.

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.

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

September 1st

Office & Stepping Stones Closed
Happy Labor Day !



September 7th

FIRST SUNDAY AT NEW WORSHIP TIME—9:30 am

September 14th

Youth Group Meeting after worship in F/H

September 28th

Harvest Home Sunday

View our website by scanning this code:



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