



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

December 2025

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

www.gracelutheranhatfield.org



I remember fondly the great joy of gift giving. Of determining what I felt was the perfect gift for friend, loved one, or someone in need. Today there are gifts everywhere, those already wrapped, those selected, those still undetermined, and those that befuddle us.

So many gifts all around, or at least what appear to be gifts. See, I believe gifts, real

gifts, are not transactional. Gifts are given from one to another simply for the joy of expressing to another our love, care, and concern with no expectation of return, or payback. And yet today it seems so many of our “exchanges” are compelled, are transactional. I give to you; you give to me. They gave to us; we must give to them. And we wonder why we feel so little joy in this exchange.

God gives us the Son, not to compel us, not in expectation that we will reciprocate, but as God’s expression of love for us. God’s joy in loving us. God’s desire to bestow to us the perfect gift, in the hope we will know we are loved and cherished. It is in such knowing, be it from God, from family, from friend that we discover the joy that stirs our spirit.

I pray your days are touched with this joy.

Pastor Wayne

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Summary of Grace Council Meeting from November

- Adopt-A-Family is underway. Five families this year, including our Bridge of Hope family.
- Sweets for Sharing to be packed at the Schmidt's home on 12/11.
- 2026 budget was distributed by Tom Salter. After a brief discussion, motion to approve by Jeff, seconded by Dave. All in favor. Will be presented at congregational meeting on 12/14.
- January Annual Meeting: All agreed will be after the service on 1/25/2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Farrell

CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING

A congregational meeting will be held following the worship service on **Sunday, December 14**, to approve the 2026 budget. Please be in attendance so that we can have a quorum and discussion.



Minister of Music Position Update

Happy news from the musical pews! ... We have secured Tedd Didden as our Minister of Music through the end of January while the search team does their due diligence in advertising and interviewing for our new Minister of Music. His duties will include working and rehearsing with our choir – and he would gladly welcome additional voices! We are excited and grateful to have his musical skills highlight our worship. Please make him welcome! The current search team includes Harold Schaefer, Peggy Schmidt, Kathy Stawasz, Frank Stone, and Wendy Walter. If you have any questions – please feel free to reach out to a member of the team!

December 2025 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Altar Flower Prep
12/07/25 Advent 2 9:30 am	K. Stone T. Sarm W. Walter	J. Kaler	B. Krout	Usher	J. Krout & K. Deussing	K. Stone
12/14/25 Advent 3 9:30 am	K. Stone T. Sarm W. Walter	C. Farrell	C. Farrell	Usher	K. Seiler & D. Kunkel	J. Kaler
12/21/25 Advent 4 9:30 am	K. Stone T. Sarm W. Walter	C. MacDonald	P. Schmidt	Usher	K. Stone & K. Heacock	C. MacDonald
12/24/25 Christmas Eve 4:00 pm 6:00 pm	TBD TBD	TBD B. Schmidt	TBD TBD	TBD TBD	TBD P. Schmidt	N/A N/A
12/28/25 1 st Sunday of Christmas 9:30am	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	N/A

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

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm



Angel boxes

Once again, we will be collecting personal care items for our Adopt-A-Families and the two Hatfield Food Cupboards. Please see the requested items below. Collection boxes will be in the Narthex from **November 2nd through December 14th.**

We realize that everyone's budgets are stretched these days, but we ask that you prayerfully consider putting aside a few dollars to help support our community. Thank you!

Items needed include:

Toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex
Shampoo/conditioner
Body wash, Body lotion
Toothpaste and toothbrushes
Razors
Shaving cream
Deodorant
Feminine products

December 2025 Calendar

- The Jesus Love Church (formerly Central Philadelphia) will be worshipping on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and using the Fellowship Hall until 2:30 p.m. They also use the Sanctuary Friday night for worship at 7:00 pm.
- Tues. are Bread Drop Sandwich Days. Donations are accepted from 8am-7pm.
- Yoga is every Wednesday night at 6:15 p.m.

Tue Dec 2, 2025	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed Dec 3, 2025	10:00am	WELCA
Sat Dec 6, 2025	5:00pm	Hatfield Community Christmas , at Grace with hot dogs, games & crafts
	6:00pm	Walk to Railroad Plaza for caroling and the arrival of Santa Claus
	6:30pm	Lighting of the Hatfield Community Christmas Tree
Sun Dec 7, 2025	9:30am	Advent 2 - Worship, Pr. Ghislaine Cotnoir
	10:30am	<i>Decorating the Sanctuary after worship</i>
Tues Dec 9, 2025	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Sun Dec 14 , 2025	9:30am	Advent 3 - Worship, Pr. Wayne Shelor
	10:30am	<i>Budget Meeting after worship</i>
Mon Dec 15, 2025	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Committee Meeting, in person
Tues Dec 16, 2025	7:00pm	Council Meeting, Zoom option
Sun Dec 21, 2025	9:30am	Advent 4 - Worship, Pr. Steve Godsall-Myers
Wed Dec 24, 2025	4:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service, Pr. Wayne Shelor
	6:00pm	Christmas Eve Worship Service, Pr. Wayne Shelor
Thurs Dec 25, 2025		<i>Christmas Day, Office & Stepping Stones Closed</i>
Sun Dec 28, 2025	9:30am	1st Sunday of Christmas, Worship, Pr. Wayne Shelor
Wed Dec 31, 2025		<i>New Year's Eve, Office & Stepping Stones Closed</i>
Thurs Jan 1, 2026		<i>New Year's Day, Office & Stepping Stones Closed</i>



THE BREAD DROP schedule for December 2025 is: 12/2/25 Jess Moran; 12/9/25 Priscilla Landis; 12/16/25 Laura Kratz; 12/23/25 Jean Delmuto; 12/30/25 Emily Woltmann

WELCA

Our next meeting will be on December 3rd at 10:00 am, and we will be doing Christmas cards for our Homebound members. Hope to see you there. Barb Watts



Spotlight on: Youth Ministry

Ministry Team Spotlight

Why Is Youth Ministry Important?

1. Cultivates future church leaders by equipping the next generation for service.
2. Strengthens the church community by integrating young people into the cross-generational community. Providing opportunities for them to use their gifts to serve.
3. Supports Discipleship by partnering with parents to help pass the faith from generation to the next.
4. Increases Outreach by giving young people the tools they need to reach the wider community. Helping them find belonging, purpose, and meaning.

It has always been my desire to help youth make Confirmation a new beginning in their life in Christ, rather than a graduation from church.

Thanks,

Peace, Annette



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP UPDATE

Children's message and Sunday school continue as normal. I email the parents of the kids weekly and invite them to join me for Sunday school.

Peace, Annette

STEPPING STONES

Decemberrrrrrrrrr!!! It got cold! We're going to be kicking off the holiday season with our annual Stepping Stones tree lighting where kiddos are going to decorate our hallway tree with handmade ornaments so be sure to check it out! We're going to be full of festivities with Ugly Sweater Day, Christmas Card Day, Movie and PJ Day, and so much more including the Big Man, Santa, coming for a visit on 12/22! Stepping Stones will be closed on 12/24, 12/25, 12/31, and 1/1 as we celebrate Christmas and New Year's but then we look forward to another great year in 2026! See you there!

Jessica Moran, Director



Sweets for Sharing 2025 Calling all Cookie Makers! On Thursday, December 11th, WELCA and the INreach team will once again be putting together Christmas boxes of confections for our homebound and Grace staff. Please consider donating cookies (freshly made or store bought) or individually wrapped candies so that we can continue this much-loved tradition. We will be collecting these items at Grace in the narthex (until 12/11) and putting them together at Peggy & Bruce Schmidt's house. Thank you in advance for your generous offerings! Any questions OR to arrange a pick up or drop off of your donation, please call or email: carol.w.macdonald@gmail.com; 215-872-0472.



Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project 2025

During the Advent season, each Sunday, we light candles on the Advent Wreath –HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE - as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. In our homes we prepare for family gatherings. At Grace we remember those families who may not be able to provide the necessities for their loved ones. The Giving in Service team invites you to help provide gifts to families in our area to allow them to share in the joy of Christmas. This year we will be sharing our gifts with several families from Stepping Stones and our family from Bridge of Hope.

We would like to provide food for our families, also. We will collect food for their shelves for winter. Take a tag or two from the Christmas tree to provide the food item listed.

DUE date for our Adopt-a-Family gifts and food items is **Sunday Dec. 21st**.

What a wonderful way to share God's love during the Advent Season by giving to our families.

The Giving in Service Team – Jean Shaffer, Diane Ball, Carol MacDonald, Barb Watts, Cathy Farrell, Kay Deussing, and Kay Stone

Soup a Thon Wrap Up: Many thanks to all of you who contributed to a very successful event on November 9th! With your purchases & generous donations, we were able to sell 19 quarts of soup and made \$183! We are so happy to be able to support our veterans and first responders by donating 1/2 of that to Tails of Valor Paws of Honor, tailsofvalor.org. To our Soup Makers: all of your delicious contributions have allowed us to also share soup with our homebound. A special shout out goes to Lou Farrell for contributing almost 2 dozen quarts of fresh soup!!! Again, thank you ALL so much for your generosity and time. We are very grateful.

Laymen Playmen Theatre

PRESENTS

SAVE THE DATE

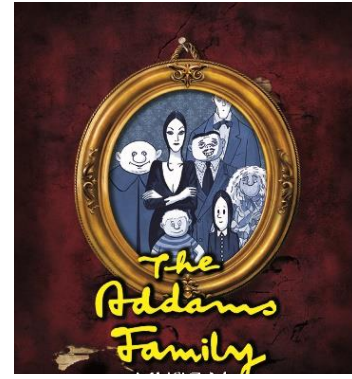
The Addams Family, the musical comedy, is coming to The Laymen Playmen for their 38th production.

Show dates are March 13-15 and 20-22nd 2026.



Tickets on Sale
January 1st

LaymenPlaymen.org



The Addams Family musical is presented through special arrangements with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide 1180 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 640, New York, NY 10036. www.theatricalrights.com

The Addams Family was created by Charles Addams, music and lyrics are by Andrew Lippa and book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elise. The show explores the themes of love, family and growing up.

For more information, visit LaymenPlaymen.org



**Help Us "Spruce"
Up the Church!**

Everyone is invited to come and join in decorating the sanctuary for Christmas immediately following our service on **Sunday, December 7.** Many hands make light work and if we get a nice-sized group to do this we can get it done quickly. We will have coffee, hot chocolate and sweet treats to give you energy for hanging ornaments. Please join us in making our church beautiful to celebrate Christ's birth.



EEC FOOD CUPBOARD

As we approach the Season of Giving, please know how much your gifts of food and household products are appreciated by others in our community. Each week, many families wait in all kinds of weather outside of Emmanuel for the doors to open so that they can shop for some basic needs. Janet Hague shared: "We were blessed with donations from Scouting for Food in November as well as faithful support from our friends at Grace Lutheran throughout the year. As you can imagine, the fall months saw an increase in demand as people suffered from the government shutdown. We serve 90+ families a month." Thank you for your continued generosity in helping the EEC help others.

Current top needs:

Food items: Sugar and Flour, Coffee (ground), tea bags (black & green)

Household & Personal Care*: Laundry Detergent (unscented/free & clear), dishwashing liquid, razors and shaving cream

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: Dec 2, 16, Closed 30thOpen again Jan 6th, 2026

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: Dec 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

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), Connie Plawa (Lynn's sister-in-law), Priscilla (Shaffer) Hollerbach, 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), 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, Aaron O'Conner (Liz Bauer's son), Steve Malloy (Peg Malloy's husband), Kirsten Seiler (Ken & Karen's daughter-in-law), Cindy Mancuso.

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), Shirley Malloy (Steve Malloy's mother), Lois DeSantis.

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.

Grace Lutheran Church
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GraceLutheranHatfield.org

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Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator

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Annette Dittman, Director of Youth
Ministries

Stepping Stones 215.368.2052

Jessica Moran, Director

Saturday, Dec. 6th **Hatfield Community Christmas**

Sunday, Dec. 7th Decorating the Sanctuary after
worship

Sunday, Dec. 14th Budget Meeting after worship

Wednesday, Dec. 24th - 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm

Christmas Eve Worship Service, Pr. Wayne Shelor

Thursday, Dec. 25th

Christmas Day, Office & Stepping Stones Closed

**Sunday, Dec. 28th 1st Sunday of Christmas, Worship,
Pr. Wayne Shelor**

Wednesday, Dec. 31st New Year's Eve, Office & Stepping Stones Closed

Thurs., Jan. 1, 2026 New Year's Day, Office & Stepping Stones Closed



*MERRY
CHRISTMAS !*



View our website by scanning this code:



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