



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

April 2026

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

www.gracelutheranhatfield.org



I realize without all the seasons of the year, it would be difficult to have a favorite one. But I do favor spring. Maybe it is that there is less darkness as the days are longer. Maybe it is that it is easier to get outside. I love the fresh air and time in the garden. Maybe it is living amid the resurgence of the earth as the

trees bud and the flowers bloom. Maybe it is religious and this is where we celebrate Easter and the Resurrection. All of which is to say I cherish the promise of the coming new life.

Pastor Wayne	1
Council Minutes	2
Spring News !	3
Serving Schedule	4
Calendar	5
Stepping Stones	5
Mother's Day	6
Request Needed	7
EEC Food Cupboard	8
Prayer List	8
Carnation Order Form	9

As a congregation we are entering into a new life. Into a place where, while similar, we have never been before. We have some pretty good ideas about where we have been and who we are, but it is much less clear as to who we will become and what we will do together. It is exciting, and anxiety producing. It is not possible to have one without the other. So, we step forward into what's next. Some of us step boldly, some with slight hesitation, and some with great reluctance. This is who we are, a collection of God's children created to express great diversity.

I cannot tell you what is to come. I cannot predict how you will react to all that does come. I cannot make the journey perfectly safe for you. I can proclaim with all my being that God Has This! God knows all that is coming, all that we will experience, all that we will do well and not so well, and all that frightens us. As we journey together, I will endeavor to trust our God who is leading us into whatever is next. And I invite you to step forward with me, as you are able. With us walking together, the journey will be safer and remarkably more enjoyable. I am eager to discover what God has in store for us.

Together in Christ <><

Pastor Wayne



Pastor's Report:

Pastor Wayne asked us to share our thoughts about the question: **What do you hear God calling this community to right now?** Developing these ideas will help us develop a vision for Grace. We created a list of ideas, and we will add to this list at the next few meetings. Pastor is looking forward to focusing his energy and ideas with Grace over the next year.

Teaching Time – Pastor Wayne

Decision making structure – Pastor has created a procedure for committees (teams) to use as Council members focus on the BIG picture. This structure will be shared with Committee Chairs/Contacts. Reports should include what the team is doing, accomplishments and action items for Council. Plans are to meet with the Committee Chairs/Contacts 3-4 times annually.

New Business

- Jesus Love Church agreement (Cathy) Updates to the agreement were discussed. Council agreed to increase the rent by \$50/month.
- Synod Assembly attendees (Cathy) Two volunteers (one male, one female) are needed. Tom Salter volunteered to attend. Early registration is through end of March. Cathy will look for another attendee.

Council Members: Cathy Farrell (President), Tom Salter (Vice President), Kay Stone (Secretary), Bev Smith (Treasurer), Dam Sarm, Wendy Walter, Ken Seiler, and Carol MacDonald.



SPRING NEWS !

“CHANGES TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF *PARISH NEWS*”

With the rising costs of postage, paper, staples for the copier, etc., Grace’s Church Council has decided to move forward with “emailing” Parish News to everyone who has email capabilities and only mail a hard copy via the US Postal Service to those who do not have access to email. This is being done, in addition to saving money, also to be more environmentally conscious. Another point to keep in mind is that receiving the *Parish News* via email will give everyone much more “timely” information with not having to wait for it to be delivered via the mail. We are going to begin this starting next month, (May 2026). If you have not provided an email address but would like to, so we can email you your copy, or have any other questions, please contact Lynn in the office. Thank you for your cooperation, from the Church Council.

“Grace Spring Cleaning”

In the Spring-cleaning mood? It has been several years since the church has had a “Spring cleaning.” While our church is cleaned each week, it is time for some deep cleaning.

A few people cleaned the kitchen which also included organizing and removing items no longer needed. Both the refrigerator and stove were cleaned as well as under all the shelves (amazing what you might find).

The plan is to clean and organize all the corners and rooms of Grace. For example, cleaning the nursery which is used by both the Jesus Love Church and Stepping Stones for therapy classes. The toys need to be checked for broken items and general cleaning.

Although this is still in the planning stages, I am looking for volunteers that would be available, daytime, evenings or Saturdays. Please email me with your availability.

Kay Stone

kaystone@comcast.net

April 2026 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Altar Flower Prep
04/02/26 Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm		Frank Stone	Peggy Schmidt	Usher	K. Stone & K. Deussing	N/A
04/03/26 Good Friday 7:30 pm	N/A	N/A	J. Shaffer The Roneys P. Schmidt J. Kaler	Usher	Ken Seiler	N/A
04/5/26 Easter 9:30 am	L. Kratz, K. Stone & T. Sarm	Jaime Kaler	Lennon Kaler	Usher	R. Smyrl & D. Capanear	Jaime Kaler
04/12/26 9:30 am	L. Kratz, K. Stone & T. Sarm	Gail Lockner	Tami Sarm	Usher	K. Heacock & K. Stawasz	Kathy Stawasz
04/19/26 9:30 am	L. Kratz, K. Stone & T. Sarm	Cathy Farrell	Dave Kunkel	Usher	D. Kunkel & R. Smyrl	Emily Woltmann
04/26/26 9:30 am	L. Kratz, K. Stone & T. Sarm	Lennon Kaler	Jean Shaffer	Usher	J. Kaler & D. Capanear	Jaime Kaler

Council Offering/Lock-up for April 2026 is: Ken Seiler

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm



THE BREAD DROP schedule for April 2026 is: 04/07/26 Laura Kratz; 04/14/26 Jean Delmuto; 04/21/26 Emily Woltmann; 04/28/26 Karen Seiler

April 2026 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.
- Tuesdays are Bread Drop Sandwich Days. Donations are accepted from 8am to 7pm.
- Yoga is every Wednesday night at 6:15 pm

Thurs April 2, 2026 **7:30pm** *Maundy Thursday Worship Service - Pr. Wayne Shelor*

Fri April 3, 2026 **7:30pm** *Good Friday Worship Service - Pr. Wayne Shelor*
Stepping Stones Closed

Sat April 4, 2026 7am-7pm Painting of Fellowship Hall

Sun April 5, 2026 **9:30am** **Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Sunday**
Pastor Wayne Shelor

Tue April 7, 2026 7:00pm Stitchers

Thurs April 9, 2026 7:00pm Stepping Stones Committee Meeting, **in person**

Sat April 11, 2026 7am-7pm If necessary, finishing up of Fellowship Hall painting

Sun April 12, 2026 **9:30am** **2nd Sunday of Easter, Pr. Wayne Shelor**

Tues April 14, 2026 7:00pm Property Team Meeting

7:00pm Worship & Music Team Meeting

Sun April 19, 2026 **9:30am** **3rd Sunday of Easter**

Tues April 21, 2026 7:00pm Council Meeting, Zoom option

Sun April 26, 2026 **9:30am** **4th Sunday of Easter, Pr. Wayne Shelor**

Stepping Stones

I hope everyone is enjoying the sunshine and feeling recharged as Spring is finally making an appearance! We are happy to be getting back outside for some fresh air and playing in nature. April is off to a big start with the Easter Bunny and Easter Egg hunts on 4/1 for Stepping Stones students. We will then be closed on Friday, April 3rd for Good Friday. April 6th we will return from Easter for a Pajama day and will look forward to Silly Sock Day, Pretzel Day, and Bring Your Favorite Book to School Day. Have a great month, everyone!

Jessica Moran, Director

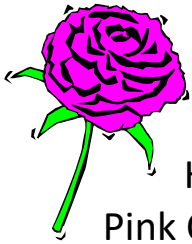
Welca

There is no Welca meeting for April. We will try again for May. Hope to see you then. Barb Watts



Rice Bowl 2026

The *Giving in Service Team* is grateful for your continued support of our **Rice Bowl project** during the Lenten Season. Our Rice Bowl offerings totaled **\$1,196.25** as of Sunday, March 15th. (The Rice Bowl offering continues through Palm Sunday, March 29th) Our gifts will be shared with **The Hatfield 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. These special offerings will be blessings for our neighbors in our communities as well as those neighbors around the globe. *Gifts to the Rice Bowl may be given at any time.*



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 10th

Honoring and remembering our mothers is a Grace Church tradition. Pink Carnations honor our mothers, and White Carnations remember our mothers who are no longer with us.

The funds from the sale of the carnations are used to support **Laurel House**, a local women's shelter for those who are victims of domestic violence. Laurel House is a Montgomery County organization that works to end domestic violence and provides housing and education for the victims of domestic violence. Our gifts to this agency will help the women and their families in our area. See the display in the Narthex for order forms or use the form in this newsletter.

Orders are due by Sunday May 3rd

An order form is included in this newsletter. Please put your order form in an envelope marked Mother's Day Carnations. Place it in the offering plate or basket in the Narthex. Orders may also be mailed to the church office or placed in the mailbox outside the main entrance to Grace.

Request Needed:

Annual Synod Assembly

A second volunteer is needed to attend the annual Synod Assembly, representing Grace. It will be taking place at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale the evening of May 29 and during the day of May 30. We have one volunteer so far, and a second is needed. Grace will cover the registration fee. Early/discounted registration ends **March 30th**. Meals are provided at the event. If interested, please let Cathy Farrell know, (215-430-3605) or cifarrell@comcast.net



YOGA (Hatha) CLASS

Every Wednesday, until May 20, 2026 from 6:15-7:15 pm

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

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 (Men too) everyone is welcome.

Contact Kathy Stawasz at [215-760-6297](tel:215-760-6297) if you have any questions



EEC FOOD CUPBOARD

A message from Janet Hague: "Emmanuel's food cupboard continues to serve 70-80 Hatfield families a month. We appreciate your faithful year-round support!"

Current top needs:

Food items: Canned Salmon or Sardines, Cereal, Salad Dressing, Quart size White Vinegar, Cake & Brownie Mix, Tuna in OIL, Tomato Paste, Mayonnaise

Household & Personal Care (Please make sure ALL lids are secure): Laundry Detergent (unscented/free & clear), Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Toothpaste, Razors & 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: April 7 & 21

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: April 14 & 28

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.

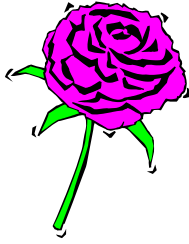


In CURRENT NEED of Prayers: Lisa Ronan (neighbor of the MacDonalds); Aaron O'Conner (Liz Bauer's son), Ken Kratz, Raymond Masser, Barbara Hess, Linda Dexter (friend of Peggy & Bruce Schmidt).

In Need of Ongoing Prayers: Liz Bauer, Suzanne Colville, Bob Kaler, Hazel Mascaro, Jerry Mascaro, Joyce Salter, Nancy Sellers, Bailey Vinson (Liz Bauer's great-granddaughter), Nancy Dustman (Joyce Salter's sister), Annette Beyer (friend of the Reillys), Priscilla (Shaffer) Hollerbach, Anita Spisak (Ken Seiler's mom), Mary Jane Moyer, Pastor Janet Peterman, Steve Malloy (Peg Malloy's husband), Bob Yoder, Sr., Shirley Yoder.

For all who grieve, including the family & friends of: Clark Rex (Kathy Stawasz's dad), Margaret (Peggy) Long, Shirley Malloy (Steve Malloy's mother), Lois DeSantis, Cindy Mancuso, John Alexiades (good friend of Bruce Schmidt), Bernard Didden (Tedd's brother), Debbie Boerner Hair (family of the MacDonalds).

For those in active duty military service: Matthew Smyrl, PA Army National Guard; Cole Dempsey, Air Force (Laura Kratz's grandson), Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard.



Mother's Day Carnations

Single Stem Carnation \$2.50

Orders due by May 3rd

Please place orders in the offering plate or the basket in the narthex

YOUR NAME _____

White Carnations

(in memory of): Number ordered _____ x \$2.50 = _____

Pink Carnations

(in honor of): Number ordered _____ x \$2.50 = _____

TOTAL= \$ _____

___ cash ___ check

*Checks should be made out to Grace Lutheran Church – **memo carnations***

Flowers may be taken home after either service on May 10th

PLEASE FILL IN:

In **memory** of: _____

FROM: _____

In **honor** of: _____

FROM: _____

Proceeds will benefit the mothers and children of Laurel House

Grace Lutheran Church
40 North Main Street
Hatfield PA 19440-2905

GraceLutheranHatfield.org

Office Phone 215.855.4676

Interim Pastor, Rev. Wayne Shelor

Minister of Music, Tedd Didden

Lynn Fasick, Office Administrator

Graceassistant40@gmail.com

Stepping Stones 215.368.2052

Jessica Moran, Director



**Thursday, April 2nd – Maundy Thursday
Worship**

Friday, April 3rd – Good Friday Worship

**Sunday, April 5th – Resurrection of Our Lord,
Easter Sunday**

View our website by scanning this code:



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