



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

May 2026

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

www.gracelutheranhatfield.org



He is Risen! Alleluia!
Alleluia! He is Risen Indeed!

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This is a busy time in our liturgical practice. We have journeyed through the forty days of Lent, from ashes to a triumphal entry, to a last dinner together, to betrayal, to crucifixion and abandonment, to the promised resurrection of our Lord. On Easter Sunday we celebrated with gusto! But Easter is not over, it has just begun. It is a season of fifty days (it seems the joy needs to be longer than the sorrow). During these fifty days we will hear of Jesus' encounters with his followers, their disbelief and amazement.

On the fortieth day of Easter, always a Thursday (this year May 17) we mark the Ascension. As reported in Acts 1:9, "Jesus was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight." It is an important day marking Jesus' return to his heavenly throne, which is often under celebrated in our religious and devotional life. Jesus' ascension makes way for the coming of the Holy Spirit, fifty days after Easter on Pentecost.

We often imagine God far off in a heaven. We frequently picture Jesus, walking around dusty Palestine as a man. Both images are somewhat removed, distant from us. But the Holy Spirit is not far off; not restricted to one place on the planet at a time. The Holy Spirit is everywhere, all over the place, inescapably up in our business. Here is where we need be aware of the holy power within us. This Spirit has been breathed into us, so that wherever we go, the Holy Spirit goes. Wherever we go, the Kingdom of God comes near. It is a remarkable responsibility that God has decided to bestow upon us, that we are God's presence in this place.

Together in Christ <><

Pastor Wayne



Teaching Time – Pastor Wayne: Discernment process steps

Cathy asked Pastor to prepare an outline of the next steps in our process of discernment. He shared his plans for three groups: Council, Members/Friends, and Neighbors. Specific items were listed for each group.

New Business:

- **Jesus Love Church agreement/changes (Cathy)** - Necessary changes have been made to the agreement with JLC. The hours for JLC will be Sundays 11 am (set-up), worship 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall 1:00 – 2:00 pm. Wagner House will be Wednesday 8:00 – 9:00 am and Sunday 9:00 – 11:30 am. Friday evening worship has been changed to Wednesday evening. A new agreement will be signed with JLC and Grace. Cathy will be the liaison between JLC and Grace.
- **Church of Restoration use of Grace facilities (Pastor)** – A motion was made by Pastor and seconded by Ken to approve the use of our facilities for a Spanish-speaking Congregation. Motion approved. In May, we welcome *The Church House of Restoration Adonai* to use our facilities for the following days and times: Sundays 4 -7:30 pm. Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:30 pm and Thursdays 7:00- 9:30 pm. They will reimburse Grace for the use of our facilities: \$1,000 per month.
- **Memorial gift for playground improvements (Tom)** – A gift was given to Grace from the estate of Cindy Mancuso. Tom made a motion that up to \$4,000 from this gift be used to pay for the new equipment needed for the playground. Ken seconded the motion. Motion approved. Tom will let Cindy Mancuso’s family know about this.
- **Seminary donation (Cathy) - Grace** received a letter from the United Lutheran Seminary requesting a donation of \$52 dollars for the 52 student pastors who will be graduating this Spring. Cathy made a motion to approve the donation. Kay seconded. Motion approved.
- **Report from InReach (Carol)** – Carol shared information about what InReach does. She noted that more time and people are needed to meet the goals of InReach. The focus of the team is on relationship building. More funding: for food for members who are recuperating from surgery, have lost a loved one, or other needs; books for babies who are baptized; postage for mailings to homebound; sunshine boxes given to those that are ill or hospitalized. Cathy made a motion to give InReach \$1000 from Cindy Mancuso’s gift to help with the extra expenses. Bev seconded. Motion approved.

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*”

As we mentioned last month, this month’s Parish News (May) is only being sent via email **with no hard copies going through the US Postal Service** other than to those who do not have email and some “homebound” members. Lynn always leaves a few extra hard copies of Parish News on the table in the Narthex underneath the bulletin boards if anyone wants to pick up a copy. Thank you for your cooperation with this change from Pastor and 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



Rice Bowl 2026 Update

The *Giving in Service Team* is grateful for your support of our **Rice Bowl project** during the Lenten Season. Our Rice Bowl offerings totaled **\$2217.75**. 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.*

May 2026 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Altar Flower Prep
05/03/26 9:30 am	Janice Swartz Jaime Kaler	Gail Lockner	Andrea Roney	Usher	Karen Heacock & Kay Stone	Kay Stone
05/10/26 9:30 am	Janice Swartz Jaime Kaler	Ken Seiler	Peggy Schmidt	Usher	Jeff Krout & Kay Deussing	Emily Woltmann
05/17/26 9:30 am	Janice Swartz Jaime Kaler	Kathy Stawasz	Kathy Stawasz	Usher	Don Capanear & Bob Smyrl	Kathy Stawasz
05/24/26 Pentecost 9:30 am	Janice Swartz Jaime Kaler	Cathy Farrell	Jean Shaffer	Usher	Don Capanear & Dave Kunkel	Emily Woltmann
05/31/26 Holy Trinity 9:30 am	Janice Swartz Jaime Kaler	Dave Kunkel	Walter Family	Usher	Walter Family	Emily Woltmann

Council Offering/Lock-up for May 2026 is: Bev Smith

Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm



THE BREAD DROP schedule for May 2026 is: 05/05/26 Jess Moran; 05/12/26 Priscilla Landis; 05/19/26 Karen Seiler; 05/26/26 Jess Moran

May 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 **through May 20th**

Sun May 3, 2026	9:30am	5th Sunday of Easter Pastor Wayne Shelor
Tue May 5, 2026	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed May 6, 2026	10:00am	WELCA Meeting
Sun May 10, 2026	9:30am	6th Sunday of Easter – Happy Mothers’ Day !! Pastor Skyle Rea
Mon May 11, 2026	7:00 pm	Stepping Stones Committee Meeting, via Zoom
Tues May 12, 2026	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Sun May 17, 2026	9:30am	7th Sunday of Easter Pastor Wayne Shelor
Tues May 19, 2026	7:00pm	Council Meeting, Zoom option
Wed May 20, 2026	6:15pm	<u>Last</u> Yoga Class until September
Sun May 24, 2026	9:30am	Pentecost Sunday Pastor Wayne Shelor
Mon May 25, 2026		MEMORIAL DAY Church Office and Stepping Stones CLOSED
Sat May 30, 2026	2:00-8:00pm	Fellowship Hall Rental
Sun May 31, 2026	9:30am	Holy Trinity Sunday Pastor Gwendolyn King

Welca

Ladies, I hope everyone can make it to our May meeting on 5/6/2026 at 10:00 am. See you then.
Barb Watts

Stepping Stones

Easter fun !!



It's gonna be May! Spring is playing tricks on us lately but hopefully the warm weather will be here to stay, soon. We have some fun events planned for this month including Pajama Day, Backwards Day, Mother's Day Tea, and Wear Red, White, and Blue Day! Stepping Stones will be closed on 5/25 for Memorial Day but we will re-open on 5/26 for our regularly scheduled programming. We are so excited for the upcoming Summer months, graduation, and water play, too! It's certain to be busy here at Stepping Stones!

Jessica Moran, Director

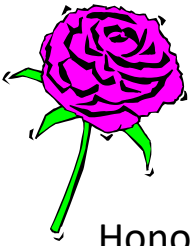


BOOKS FOR BABIES

April 12th to May 17th

SPONSORED BY WELCA

Hatfield Community Christian Coalition is supporting Mitzvah Circle's Diaper Bag Project. Donate NEW and gently used hardback (cardboard) baby books to be added to **every baby diaper supply bag** sent to families in crisis with babies still in diapers. There is only one (1) book for every 300 families under the poverty line in America. Please help us to help those in crisis. **Books can be placed in the bin on the table in the Narthex.** Questions: Contact Barb Watts at 215-362-6659.



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.



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: "Last month we welcomed over 79 families (and one new volunteer)". Please know that your ongoing contributions, as well as any volunteer time you can offer, are extremely appreciated. Thank you for your continued generosity in helping the EEC help feed and supply our neighbors in Hatfield.

Current top needs:

Food items: 100% Fruit Juice, Flour, Sugar, Salad Dressing, Mayo, Ground Coffee

Household & Personal Care*: Paper towels, Laundry Detergent (unscented/free & clear), Shampoo & Conditioner (please make sure lids are secure)

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: May 5 & 19

Tuesdays 1 - 2 pm: May 12 & 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.

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.



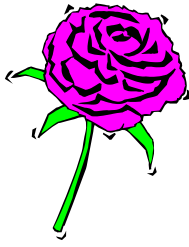
In CURRENT NEED of Prayers:

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

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

For all who grieve, including the family & friends of: John Alexiades (good friend of Bruce Schmidt), Annette Beyer (friend of the Reillys), Lois DeSantis, Bernard Didden, Debbie Boerner Hair (family of the MacDonalds), Margaret (Peggy) Long, Shirley Malloy, Cindy Mancuso.

For those in active-duty military service: Cole Dempsey, Air Force (Laura Kratz's grandson), Nathaniel Smyrl, PA Army National Guard, Joe Recco, Navy (Raymond Masser's grandson).



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
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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



May 10th –
Happy Mothers' Day !!



May 24th -- Pentecost Sunday

May 25th -- MEMORIAL DAY
Church Office and Stepping Stones CLOSED

May 31st --Holy Trinity Sunday

View our website by scanning this code:



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Hatfield, PA 19440-2905