



PARISH NEWS

Grace Lutheran Church, Hatfield PA

October 2026

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

www.gracelutheranhatfield.org



Council Notes

A Note from Your Church Council: As we continue to navigate another time of transition, we know you have questions, concerns, and, hopefully, lots of ideas to share in order to move our Grace family into a new era.

Did you know that those of us who are honored to serve as your Grace Council members WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU? Whether you attend church each Sunday, watch services from home, or have not felt directly connected to Grace in years, you are taking the time to read this and you are an important part of Grace's history as well as our future. Please do not hesitate to share your thoughts with any of us. We will bring your voice to our Council table and prayerfully discuss and consider your comments and ideas. We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Grace.



Soup-A-Thon: Sunday, November 8th 2026, 9 - 11 am

Please mark your calendars for your next opportunity to buy delicious soups that support our INreach team ministry as well as our local veterans! Once again, we will be giving 1/2 of our proceeds to an organization that makes a positive difference in the lives of our local heroes. Last year, we were able to contribute \$100 to Tails of

Valor Paws of Honor!

If you enjoy making soup (recipes and containers will be available) and would like to support us in this fundraiser, please keep an eye out for our Soup-a-Thon display in the narthex mid-October. Your help is greatly appreciated...we can't do this without you!



Grace to you and peace in the name of our risen and ascended Lord Jesus.

In this part of the world, October is always a time of transition. The weather is cooling, the leaves are falling, we are raking (or vacuuming), the days are shorter, the garden is dying off as this part of the globe takes some time to rest. All in preparation for the new that is certain to come, after a while.

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As you are well aware Grace is in a time of transition, moving through a time of significant change. You have navigated a great many transitions in your not so distant past. From the going and coming of pastors and musicians, to the death of long-time members, to a devastating fire, to new construction, to sharing facilities with other faith communities, to ... things we cannot yet see. And through it all you have turned to God, relied on your faith, and remained resilient in the face of change. I can only imagine you will continue in this way as you face whatever lies ahead.

Your Council continues their efforts to discern and articulate a path forward. It is a complex journey which is challenging to see. Please keep them in your regular prayers. And keep this entire community and ministry in prayer as you pause each day to pray:

Dear Lord, thank you, for loving us. Please direct us in all we do that our works begun, continued, and ended, may strengthen our ministry for the Lord in this place, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

For us to get from here into our next chapter we need the best guidance and help available, which we most reliably attain through prayer.

Together in Christ <>< **Pastor Wayne**



HAVE YOU NOTICED the sparking exterior of our church building? We are grateful to the members of THE CHURCH HOUSE OF RESTORATION ADONAI for the contribution of power washing our shared building on September 11th. **MUCHAS GRACIAS!!**



Important News:

Your Council has been discussing possible options for a path forward, and working to understand the pros and cons, and complexities, of each. We want to do what is best for Grace, for our worship and ministries, but also for the long-term sustainability of Grace. We know that some things need to change in order to maintain who we are but also to revitalize our church. We acknowledge that we need to be outwardly/community-focused in order to keep Grace a thriving and relevant faith community. We also cherish our building, and the valuable service we provide to the community with Stepping Stones.

As shared previously, briefly, the various options were:

1. **Call a part-time pastor.** A (possibly very) lengthy process, requiring a supply pastor every other Sunday; and not likely to change our current situation of decreasing membership.
2. **Become a satellite congregation to a large, thriving congregation.** This includes needing to consider things like the physical proximity between churches (what's better, close or far apart?) and could mean a loss of autonomy.
3. **Collaborate with a sister congregation and share a pastor - perhaps, or perhaps not, mingling our ministries.** This requires extra oversight of the pastor's time and maintaining two costly facilities.
4. **Identify one or more faith communities in a similar situation to ours and reorganize the collective into a new congregation with a full-time pastor.**

After much discussion the Council has chosen to pursue Option 4, first.

Accordingly, we want to now work to identify a faith community with which to form a new congregation, with a full-time pastor. This "merger" would likely entail (at least) one of the churches to sell or rent out space in their building, as we could not otherwise afford to maintain multiple church facilities. Together we would create something that respects our mutual histories, but we would be forming something new, that uses all of our resources, whether they be physical, financial or human, more efficiently.

At the request of Faith Lutheran, our Councils met on September 2 to discuss where Faith is in the process of handling their decreasing membership. Pastor Wayne led the discussion between the two councils. Faith's Council expressed an interest in our congregations helping each other with one or more of our ministries, to get to know one another better. Our next step in the process will be for Cathy and Tom to meet with Faith's Council President and Vice-President to discuss this further. These are exploratory conversations and do not mean we are close to making a decision about a merger.

As Council recently reported, we are also eager to start a new ministry at Grace, a Wellness Center ministry, providing a variety of offerings for our members and members of the surrounding community. Cathy Farrell will head up a new committee that will begin to plan this ministry. We hope to provide classes and seminars for better physical, mental and spiritual health. Cathy welcomes your ideas, and there will be more about this new ministry very soon.

Please feel free to ask any questions you may have, by speaking to, or emailing, a Council member.

A Council member will be sharing news during worship on a regular basis as we continue to through this process.

Council Members: Cathy Farrell (president) cifarrell@comcast.net

Tom Salter (vice president) joyceandtomsalter@verizon.net

Kay Stone (secretary) kaystone@comcast.net

Bev Smith (treasurer) bushomebev@gmail.com

Dan Sarm dansarm@hotmail.com

Wendy Walter wwalter@verizon.net

Ken Seiler kens@ringconsulting.com

Carol MacDonald carol.w.macdonald@gmail.com



Save the date: The Adopt-A-Family Project will begin in November.

Look for information in Grace Notes and the November Parish News.

The Giving in Service Team

Please save boxes for gifts and food for our Adopt-A-Family Project.

*Box sizes: **approximately** 12 inches wide 18 inches long and 9 inches deep*

You may bring them to church any Sunday in November.



Harvest Home Sunday

Thank you for gifts of food and other products for **Harvest Home Sunday**. These items were shared with Manna on Main Street in Lansdale and the Hatfield Food Cupboard.

Thank you also for your gifts to World Hunger.

The Giving in Service Team

Happy First Anniversary to our Minister of Music

Tedd Didden, our Minister of Music, is celebrating one year at Grace. Since October 5, 2025, he has shared his musical gifts with us each Sunday.

Please join us for a special coffee hour on **October 4th** to thank Tedd for his talent and the music he brings to our worship services.

October 2026 Serving Schedule

Date	Altar Guild	Assisting Minister	Lector	Acolyte	Ushers	Altar Flower Prep
10/04/26 9:30 am	Jaime Kaler/ Sue Wieland	Karen Seiler	Cathy Farrell	Usher	Kay Deussing & Don Capanear	Emily Woltmann
10/11/26 9:30 am	Jaime Kaler/ Sue Wieland	Ken Seiler	Karen Seiler	Usher	Karen Seiler & Kay Deussing	Jaime Kaler
10/18/26 9:30 am	Jaime Kaler/ Sue Wieland	Kathy Stawasz	Gail Lockner	Usher	Kay Stone & Don Capanear	Kathy Stawasz
10/25/26 9:30 am Reformation Sunday	Jaime Kaler/ Sue Wieland	Cathy Farrell	Tami Sarm	Usher	Karen Heacock & Kathy Stawasz	Emily Woltmann

Council Offering/Lock-up for October 2026 is: Bev Smith
Live Streaming: Harold Schaefer, Dan & Tami Sarm

Laymen Playmen Theatre

PRESENTS

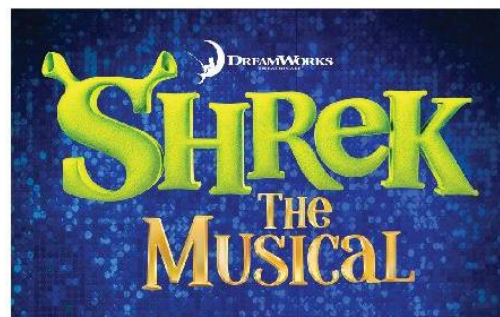
SAVE THE DATE

SHREK THE MUSICAL is coming to The Laymen Playmen for their 39th production.

Show dates are March 12-14th and 19-21st 2027.

Auditions will be held at Lansdale United Methodist Church, 300 North Broad Street, Lansdale, PA 19446 on Friday Oct. 23rd 7-9pm and Saturday the 24th 10am-12pm. Cal-backs are Friday Oct. 30th 7-9pm (if required).

For more information, visit LaymenPlaymen.org



Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

October 2026 Calendar

- **The Jesus Love Church** will use our facilities on 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 from 7-9:30 pm.**
- **The Church House of Restoration Adonai** will use our facilities for the following days and times:
Sundays 3:30 -7:30 pm (Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall).
Tuesdays 6:30 – 9:30 pm and Thursdays 6:30- 9:30 pm.
- Tuesdays are Bread Drop Sandwich Days. Donations are accepted from 8am to 7pm.
- **Yoga is every Wednesday at 6:15 pm.**

Sun Oct. 4, 2026	9:30am	Pentecost 19 Pastor Wayne Shelor <i>(Special Coffee Hour for Tedd's 1st year anniversary with Grace)</i>
Tues Oct. 6, 2026	7:00pm	Stitchers
Wed Oct. 7, 2026	6:15pm	Yoga
Sun. Oct. 11, 2026	9:30am	Pentecost 20 Pastor Gwendolyn King
Mon Oct. 12, 2026	7:00pm	Stepping Stones Committee Meeting, Zoom
Tues Oct. 13, 2026	7:00pm	Property Team Meeting
	7:00pm	Worship & Music Team Meeting
Wed Oct. 14, 2026	6:15pm	Yoga
Sun Oct. 18, 2026	9:30am	Pentecost 21 Pastor Wayne Shelor
Tues Oct. 20, 2026	7:00pm	Council Meeting
Wed Oct. 21, 2026	6:15pm	Yoga
Sat Oct. 24, 2026	4:00-8:00pm	The Church House of Restoration (instead of Sunday, the 25 th)
Sun Oct. 25, 2026	9:30am	Reformation Sunday Pastor Steve Godsall-Myers
Tues Oct. 27, 2026	6:30pm	INreach Meeting
Wed Oct. 28, 2026	6:15pm	Yoga
Sun Nov. 1, 2026	9:30am	All Saints Sunday Pastor Wayne Shelor



Reminder that Daylight Savings time ends on Sunday, November 1st.
“FALL BACK” and set your clocks one hour back on Saturday night !

Stepping Stones



Fall couldn't wait to shove Summer aside and say "It's my turn!" It has already gotten brisk out there and the feeling of Fall is in the air! October is perhaps one of my favorite months at Stepping Stones because of fun days like Pumpkin day and Apple Day. I always look forward to seeing the kiddos gutting pumpkins and exploring their insides! Stepping Stones will also enjoy Pretzel Day, Pajama Day, and our usual Fall Festival and Halloween Parade. We will also host picture day on 10/28! It's a busy month but we can't wait!

Jessica Moran, Director



THE BREAD DROP schedule for October 2026 is: 10/06/26 Emily Woltmann; 10/13/26 Karen Seiler; 10/20/26 Jess Moran; 10/27/26 Priscilla Landis

BRUNCH and PROGRAM

Preparing to Move to Retirement Living

Considering retirement?

Or a move to a place of retirement?

Or perhaps helping a family member

make those preparations?

Join with your Indian Valley Cluster of Lutheran Churches for brunch & program which will provide some helpful advice and information about choosing a retirement community ...



What are you looking for?

What features do you value?

What options exist in care, finances, and living arrangements?

... and then add a wonderful and helpful guide on

"What to do with your stuff"

Who: Members and friends of our IVC Churches

What: IVC Gathering *with Brunch* and a program

Why: To prepare for a move to retirement living

When: Tuesday, October 6, 10:30-12 Noon

Where: Lutheran Community in Telford,

12 Lutheran Home Drive, Telford **Sign-Up ➔**



A Note from the Giving to God Team ...

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

It's that time of year again! ... You might be thinking pumpkins, scarecrows, leaves changing colors and cooler temperatures – and you are right! ... But it also is the time that we prepare our hearts to complete our yearly pledge cards to the church.

Pledge cards will be mailed and will also be available each Sunday for you to complete. We ask that you prayerfully consider your yearly giving, complete and return the pledge card either via the offering plate, the locked box in the Narthex, or by mail.

In addition to your yearly monetary giving, please consider other ways that you can serve. Teams are always looking for new members ~ and there are always plenty of ways to help!

This year our theme is “The Fruit of the Spirit”. The Fruits of the Spirit are qualities of our Christian traits that are manifested in our everyday life through our actions, our attitudes and our relationships with others. While we have spiritual gifts that have been given to us, such as wisdom, healing, and teaching, we also have spiritual traits which allow us to use our gifts to the Glory of God.

Just like a gardener who works to tend and grow good fruit, we need to tend and nurture these traits through our relationship with God. We can do this through prayer, studying scripture and worshipping together.

Another way that we can nurture these traits is in the way we use them – in our daily lives and in our relationship with others. Jesus said “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

Please look for monthly reminders of ways that we manifest love, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control ~ and strengthen our commitment to our faith community!





EEC Food Cupboard...Now Trinity Lighthouse **--Hatfield Campus**

A message from Janet Hague: "Although August was a bit slower this year, we expect the pace to pick up through September & October. Your faithful support means so much to us--and to our neighbors who depend on us to supplement their family's needs. Thank you!

Current top needs:

Food items: Dry Pasta (any type including lasagna), Tomato paste, Canned Potatoes (whole or sliced), Sugar, Flour, Ground Coffee

Household & Personal Care*: Baby Wipes, Laundry Detergent (unscented/free & clear), Paper Towels

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: October 6 & 20** and Tuesdays **1 - 2 pm: October 13 & 27**

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](tel: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:

Laurie Davanzo (neighbor of the MacDonalds), Linda Dexter (friend of Peggy & Bruce Schmidt), Lou Farrell, Barbara Hess, Paul Karcewski (Laura Kratz's brother), Jerry Mascaro, Raymond Masser, Aaron O'Conner (Liz Bauer's son), Chuck and Mary Jane Slugg, Shirley Yoder.

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

For all who grieve, including the family & friends of: Annette Beyer (friend of the Reillys), Alice Ciarrocca (friend of Karen Heacock & Phyllis McKeefrey), Lois DeSantis, Bernard Didden, John F. Homan, Irene Krohnemann, Margaret (Peggy) Long, Cindy Mancuso, Fred Orrik (Pastor Wayne's father-in-law), Lisa Ronan (neighbor of the MacDonalds).

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), Jack McNulty, Marines, basic training (Hatfield resident who is a former boy scout from the troop affiliated with Grace).

Grace Lutheran Church
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Hatfield PA 19440-2905

GraceLutheranHatfield.org

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Interim Pastor, Rev. Wayne Shelor

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Stepping Stones 215.368.2052

Jessica Moran, Director

**October 4th - Special Coffee Hour for Tedd's
1st year anniversary with Grace**

October 25th - Reformation Sunday

November 1st - All Saints Sunday



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View our website by scanning this code:

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