

Faith Stories

Summer's Story—Mindy Coath

“How much longer can all this suffering go on?” is a question I find myself asking a lot. I'm surrounded by it, as I help my father, who is suffering through watching his wife of 55 years die very slowly, care for my mother, who is suffering from a long and relentless battle with cancer, Parkinson's disease, and dementia. My kids are suffering, because I'm never home anymore. Philip is suffering, because he's pretty much assumed the role of single dad. I am suffering from all this suffering.

A little over a year ago Grace's Bible Study was working through the book of James. He was teaching us how much joy there is in all our suffering. The worse the suffering, the greater the joy, people!!! Wait, what? Somehow Pastor Kraiss did her thing and made it all make sense, and I tucked the lesson into the back in my mind for future reference.

Fast forward a bit... One night Emma graduated from high school, the next day my mom went to the ER, and life turned on a dime. It was the first of five hospitalizations for various infections and falls in a nine month period. She is now on hospice, and my daily vocabulary has expanded to include words like draw sheet, chucks, briefs, skinprep, debriding, and sundowning. I know the difference between tegaderm and duoderm, honey thick and nectar thick, Aricept and Namenda. I'm with her 7 days a week – my mom, who for the year past has interchangeably called me Patty, Sondra, and Mary, and can't tell me how we met. “Why? Why? Why?” creeps into my mind a lot.

But something else was creeping around back there too. It was covered with cobwebs, but the gist of some notion that suffering = joy was nagging at me. A little digging around the internet led me to these few words early in the first chapter of James: “Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds.”

And the bible study discussion started coming back to me: Suffering can lead to endurance; leaning on God during our suffering will give us strength to endure it. Once I applied this to myself, it immediately felt true. The more I lean on God during my trials, the more strength I have to endure them, and the more peaceful I feel when I'm in the midst of them. And sure enough, when I ignore Him or forget to call out to Him, the less strength I have to cope, and the more anxious, impatient, and resentful I feel. Suffering doesn't always lead to joy, but it does when we let God take us there. It sounds so simple! But it is just as easy to slide into anger or self-pity, and I must remind myself of James' words daily, sometimes hourly or even minute by minute! It helps me to think of joy in terms of gratitude, so if I find myself getting resentful or discouraged I try to remember to immediately start thanking God instead. Thank You Lord for giving me this opportunity to need You, thank You for always being there when I need You! Now my mind has shifted from negative to positive, thinking of all the things I have to be grateful for...and there I am experiencing God's joy in the midst of my suffering.

This past year has been possibly the hardest of my life, but it has left me laid bare with no choice but to trust God above all else. My faith has deepened and broadened in immeasurable and unexpected ways. So James was right: my deepest suffering has brought great joy!

JULY/AUGUST 2017 WORSHIP SERVICES & SPECIAL EVENTS



Sat., July 1—Prayer Vigil, 10AM-4PM: Sanctuary

Sun., July 2—4th Sunday After Pentecost

8:00am Traditional Worship & 10:45am Contemporary Worship

Tues., July 4—Office Closed for the Holiday

Sun., July 9—5th Sunday After Pentecost

8:00am Traditional Worship & 10:45am Contemporary Worship

5:30-8:30pm—VBS through Thurs., 7/13

Tues., July 11—Miller/Keystone Blood Drive at Grace

Sun., July 16—6th Sunday After Pentecost/Baptism Sunday

8:00am Traditional Worship & 10:45am Contemporary Worship

Sun., July 23—7th Sunday After Pentecost

8:00am Traditional Worship & 10:45am Contemporary Worship

Sun., July 30—8th Sunday After Pentecost

8:00am Traditional Worship & 10:45am Contemporary Worship

Tues., Aug. 1—Council Reports Due

Sun., Aug. 6—9th Sunday After Pentecost

8:00am Traditional Worship & 10:45am Contemporary Worship

Tues., Aug. 8—Council Meeting, 7pm in the Parlor

Sun., Aug. 13—10th Sunday After Pentecost/Baptism Sunday

8:00am Traditional Worship & 10:45am Contemporary Worship

Tues., Aug. 15—September Newsletter Deadline

Sun., Aug. 20—11th Sunday After Pentecost/Baptism Sunday

8:00am Traditional Worship & 10:45am Contemporary Worship

Sun., Aug. 27—12th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00am National Youth Gathering Meeting: Parlor

One Service at 10:00AM, followed by the pool party at 9 Oaks

Stay “in the know” wherever you go!

We're all over social media!! Here's how to find us at Grace:

Website: www.gracelutheranroyersford.com

Email: gracelutrn@verizon.net **Twitter search:** @gracelutheran12

Youth website: www.gracelutheranroyersforyouth.weebly.com

Facebook search: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Instagram search: [grace.lutheran.royersford](https://www.instagram.com/grace.lutheran.royersford)

VBS isn't just for kids! Adults are invited to join Pastor Kraiss Sunday, July 9 - Thursday, July 13 (6-8 pm) for a study of Luther's faith practices & how they can invigorate our faith today! **"The Spiritual Practices of Martin Luther (and why they're good for us too!)"** will explore Luther's love for prayer, bible reading, music, worship, and good works. Each evening stands alone – come to one, or come to all! Please RSVP to Pastor Kraiss at jkraiss.gracelutrn@verizon.net by July 5th.



Pastor's Points by Pastor Kraiss

So, by now, you've seen Grace's Blessing Tree in the narthex of the church. (If you haven't, then please join us in worship soon!) This tree has been sprouting leaves each week as people continue to write their blessings onto "leaves" and attach them to the tree. I'm finding myself blessed by the reminders this tree gives me of how very good God is in each of our lives. Each little leaf is another person's personal testimony to God's abundance.

The Blessing Tree ministry was inspired by the Mission Assessment Profile (MAP survey) that many of you completed. (Thank you!) One of the priorities identified on the MAP was to help members recognize God at work in our lives and the world. This tree is more than a chance to name things that make us happy; it gives us a way notice how wonderfully busy God is, and then, *to respond in some way that lives out our mission*. How will you respond to the profusion of blessings received by the people of Grace? In what ways will your life show to others how very blessed you are?



VBS: Mark your calendars to get down & dirty, to get creative and learn how God Made You! Sunday, July 9th - Thursday, July 13th from 6-8pm is our Makers Fun Factory VBS here at Grace, for potty trained 2 year olds—6th graders ! There is also Food Factory (dinner) offered at 5:30pm if you are interested! Please sign up at

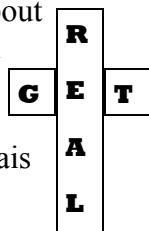
<http://gracelutheranroyersforyouth.weebly.com/vacation-bible-school.html>

Faith First: Breakfast & devotions happen every Wednesday, at 7am, at The Main St Café! This is a casual group that gathers for a mid-week mini spiritual boost!



Holy Grounds: There's no better summer reading than scripture! Join us on Thursday mornings from 9:30-11 to read and study the old Testament together. We meet in the parlor (lower level of the church – room 5) & love to see new faces!

GET REAL: This dinner group is for all who love to talk about the way faith intersects with life. Our next dinner discussion will be on the important, timely topic of *"Faith & Politics: Do They Belong Together?"* We'll be at Giovanni's in Royersford on Monday, July 3rd. Please RSVP to Pastor Kraiss at 610-948-3684 or jkraiss.gracelutrn@verizon.net.



Save the Date! You're Invited!!
Help us celebrate
the Retirement of Pastor Neff
Sunday, September 24, 2017
One Worship Service at 10:00am
Lunch & Program to follow,
in the Social Hall



Grace Lutheran Church Scholarship Forms for Lutheran Summer Camps will be available again this year. Please stop by the church office, call or email to request a form. To be considered for a Summer Camp

Scholarship from Grace, fill out the form & submit it **to the church office, by Aug. 31st**. Scholarships will be awarded in the fall; amounts depend on scholarship money available & number of applicants. Only one church scholarship per camper, per year will be awarded. Checks will be mailed to the address listed on the form, sometime in the fall.

Prayer Chain Reminder - Please contact Jan Slack (prayer chain coordinator), 610-948-3539 or mjkk13539@comcast.net with your prayer concerns for the Prayer List. The weekly Ledger prayers will be kept to the new, more short term & immediate prayer needs of the church & community.

Prayer Lists are available on the back windowsill in the Narthex & in the pew racks. Please take a list home with you to enhance your daily devotions & prayer life; also use it to help you prepare your heart for worship with prayer. Prayer lists name our concerns & thanksgivings and are a way to stay connected to God & to the needs of others.



Children are welcome in all of our worship services at Grace!

The Tot Spot is lovingly & skillfully supervised by Mrs. Ellen Jones, where we provide childcare on Sunday mornings for parents who are worshipping with us. Children ages 5 and under may join us in room E09 of the Education Building.



Note: 6/11-9/3, Tot Spot open for 8am service only.
Children's Church is on break for the summer.



Need Prayer? Stephen Ministers are available during communion for prayer. If you have a prayer request, you may go to a prayer station (in the narthex & at the side doors) and wait for a Stephen Minister, who will pray with you. Our Stephen Ministers provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care. They'll listen, care, encourage & pray with and for you. Stephen Ministers are specially trained to meet your emotional & spiritual needs. If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by talking with our Stephen Leader: *[Judy Lukens]*.

If you miss the opportunity to stop by one of the prayer stations, there's a "prayer box" located in the narthex. Complete the prayer request slip, place it in the box & the Stephen Ministers will pray for you. They can be anonymous or if you prefer you can include your name. Everything with & through the Stephen Ministry remains confidential. Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

Our High School Mission Trip will leave on July 14th and arrives back on July 22nd! Please pray for all those going: Abby Coath, Lily Coath, Sydney Floyd, Kali Kratz, Gracyn Marchesani, Nathan McMullan, Michael Walter & Kelsey Hlavac. Our faith sharing will be on Sun., 7/30!

Grace Pool Party! August 27th One Service at 10:00am followed by the Pool Party, from 11am - 3pm at 9 Oaks! \$5 per person registration for food & access to pool. It's going to be a swimmin' good time! Don't miss it!

Grace Camping Trip is being planned, it is in the works! Please contact Kelsey if you are interested in participating!

Keep your eyes out for other youth events on our facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/GraceLutheranRoyersfordYouth/>



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
Grace Lutheran Youth Group
"Like" us to see recent news & events

Save the Date! Progressive Dinner-Sept. 9!

Rev up your appetite & sharpen your teeth "Gracers"; our annual Progressive Dinner will be Sat., Sept. 9, beginning at 6:30pm & ending at 9:30pm. This is a fun "adult only" event. We'll start at one home for heavy appetizers & progress to another home for yummy desserts. **Two volunteers are needed to host/hostess a portion of the evening.** Questions, call Marie James 610-948-7294. Please indicate your interest by filling out the form below.



Progressive Dinner Sign Up

I will Host _____ or I will bring the following (enough to serve 8)

Appetizers _____ Beverages _____ Dessert _____

Name _____

Phone Number _____

PRAYER FOCUS — JULY

1. having humor in your life/ International Joke Day
2. our memory/ I Forgot Day
3. equality for all/Civil Rights Act 1964
4. the brave men & women who fought for our freedom/Independence Day
5. prayer of thankfulness for all we have
6. love/ International Kissing Day/
7. pleasures of God's world/Chocolate Day
8. republicans/Rep. party formed in 1854
9. summer VBS fun begins/prayers for all attending
10. picnics/Teddy Bear Picnic Day
11. all those suffering loneliness / Cheer Up the Lonely Day
12. vision/Different Colored Eyes Day
13. intelligence/ Embrace Your Geekness Day
14. participation of Christian activities/ Anti-boredom Month
15. animals/Cow Appreciation Day
16. giving hugs / Hug Week
17. our uniqueness/Fingerprints first used as ID in 1858
18. floral beauty / Chrysanthemum Day
19. marital harmony/Fritch Day
20. God's creation of the moon/1st moonwalk, Neil Armstrong 1969
21. enjoying God's creation
22. parents/National Parent's Day
23. those who feel forgotten by God
24. cousins / Cousins' Day
25. those who lack hope
26. finding a happy medium/All or Nothing Day
27. Korean War veterans/Korean War Veterans' Armistice Day 1953
28. accountants at Grace/Accountants' Day
29. God's creation/Rain Day
30. our father-in-laws/Father-in-law Day
31. inventors/1st US patent 1790

AUGUST

1. our sisters at Grace/National Girl-friend's Day
2. Grace's artists/American Artist Appreciation Month
3. families/American Family Day
4. clowns/National Clown Week
5. enjoyment of summer weather/ Summer Olympics begin
6. wonderful worship at Grace
7. forgiveness/ International Forgiveness Day
8. our eyes & vision/ Eye Exam Month
9. a beautiful summer weekend
10. preventative medicine/Immunization Awareness Month
11. sons & daughters /Sons & Daughters Day
12. happiness/Smile Week
13. left -handers / International Left Handers' Day
14. peace/Japan surrendered 1945, end of WWII
15. relaxing/National Relaxation Day
16. friends/Friendship Week
17. those who struggle with temptation
18. care of creation/Homeless Animal Day
19. vegetables/Potato Day
20. college students returning to school
21. helping God/Be an Angel Day
22. that all may hear & follow God's word
23. those who are traveling
24. teachers preparing for a new school year
25. those who argue/Kiss and Make-up Day
26. women/Women's Equality Day
27. hospitality to visitors
28. visions and dreams/Dream Day
29. our missionaries Steven and Marta
30. inventors/Inventors' Month
31. the Christian church around the world



About Prayer/Summer 2017

Summertime is a time for many things:

- for catching up with chores, for vacations, visiting far away family, for weddings, and showers, bike riding, walks, swimming, etc...

When do you have time for prayer??

Prayer shouldn't be pigeoned-holed into a specific time, or day or place. It, this conversation with God, is an ongoing, all the time activity.

"Pray without ceasing!" 1Thessalonians 5: 16-18

Every moment of the day should be filled in prayer :

- Thanking God when we receive things, when we view beauty in nature, when we are enjoying good health.
- All decisions should be discussed with God, all desires also. Perhaps it's not a good time for something we think we need right now. Discuss it with God.
- Start your morning with coffee, tea, and a few words with God. Listen as he helps you plan your day. Does a neighbor call and need your help? Are you reading about some activity in the paper? Does God want you to participate?

Keep your eyes and ears open. God is all around, and in your heart. Feel Him and experience Him. Have a wonderful summer!

One Prayer Vigil in the Summer: July 1st, from 10AM-4PM.
There will be no Prayer Vigil in August!

Sue Perry

**Caring Crafters are having a Summer break.
We will see everyone in September!**

We have many sponsorships open for the Summer of 2017!!
Sponsorships are a great way to honor someone's birthday, a special date or an anniversary; they are also a nice way to remember a loved one.

Call the office (610-948-3684) to find out more.

Summer 2017 Worship Assistants**Trustee:** July-Jim Campbell
Aug.-Joe Curran**Communion Asst.:**

7/2: 8:00 Firerings, Kamertzs, Moore 10:45 Marchesani, Mills, Ferguson, Troiano
7/9: 8:00 Peaks, James, Nixon, Stryker 10:45 McGarrys/Coaths
7/16: 8:00 Slacks, R. Walters, Curran 10:45 Floyd, Meredith, Finnegan, Bracale
7/23: 8:00 Horning, Fritz, Meyers, Feist, Aust 10:45 Barattuccis, Neff, Sheehan
7/30: 8:00 Campbell, Harshaw, Perry, Parker, Mensch 10:45 Fritz, Lau, McMullan
8/6: 8:00 Firerings, Kamertzs & Moore 10:45 Gonzalezs, Moyer, Brown
8/13: 8:00 Peaks, James, Nixon, Stryker 10:45 Weaner, Lewis, Snyder, Fretz
8/20: 8:00 Slacks, Walters, Curran 10:45 Alloways, Mull, Bauer
8/27: 8:00 Horning, Fritz, Meyers, Feist, Aust 10:45 Marchesani, Mills, Ferguson, Troiano

Acolytes/Crucifers & Torch Bearers

7/2: 8:00 Lily & Abby C. 10:45 Aiden O./Connor F.
7/9: 8:00 Natalie P./James F. 10:45 Gavin S./Ryan F.
7/16: 8:00 Sydney F./Ashley R. 10:45 Nathan & Eric M.
7/23: 8:00 Gracyn & Alaina M. 10:45 Grace & Kenny B.
7/30: 8:00 Sam L./Natalie P. 10:45 Ashley D./Aiden O.
8/6: 8:00 James F./Sydney F. 10:45 Abby & Lily C.
8/13: 8:00 Ashley R./Natalie P. 10:45 Alaina & Gracyn M.
8/20: 8:00 Sam L./Abby C. 10:45 Connor F./Gavin S.
8/27: 8:00 Sydney F./James F. 10:45 Kenny B./Ryan F.

Children's Sermons: **7/2:** B. Johnson **7/9:** S. McMullan
7/16: J. Lukens **7/23:** D. Lewis **7/30:** K. Hlavac
8/6: B. Johnson **8/13:** S. McMullan
8/20: J. Lukens **8/27:** D. Lewis

Children's Church: On break for summer

The monthly newsletter & church info is always available, anytime,
 on our website at www.gracelutheranroyersford.com.

Altar Guild: July-Joe & Deb Kamertz

Aug.-Kelly Granato & Becky Fretz

**Greeters: 7/2:** 8:00 G. Pouchan/Staub

10:45 Team 6/Thompson & Lukens

7/9: 8:00 Snyders/Astheimers 10:45 Team 7/McMullan & Meredith
7/16: 8:00 R. Walter/M. Rehrer 10:45 Team 8/Tramontana & Armstrong
7/23: 8:00 Currans/Peaks 10:45 Team 9/Tyrrell & Feist
7/30: 8:00 Sullivans/Plotts 10:45 Team 10/Gonzalez & Fodor
8/6: 8:00 G. Pouchan/Leisters 10:45 Team 1/Lewis & Meitzler
8/13: 8:00 Esslingers/Astheimers 10:45 Team 2/Smith & Schroeder
8/20: 8:00 Walters/Staub 10:45 Team 3/Anspach & Della Guardia
8/27: 8:00 Plotts/Currans 10:45 Team 4/Iacullo & Nelson

Readers: 7/2: 8:00 B. Fretz/10:45 C. Nelson

7/9: 8:00 M. James/10:45 T. Meredith **7/16:** 8:00 M. Rehrer/10:45 W. Moyer
7/23: 8:00 D. Kamertz/10:45 S. Leonard **7/30:** 8:00 Currans/10:45 P. Lebow
8/6: 8:00 D. Fritz/10:45 G. Marchesani
8/13: 8:00 M. James/10:45 T. Meredith
8/20: 8:00 M. Rehrer/10:45 S. Leonard **8/27:** 8:00 OPEN/10:45 J. Neff

Counting Teams: 7/2: Team C/Slack **7/9:** Team D/Moyer

7/16: Team E/Coath **7/23:** Team F/Esslinger **7/30:** Team G/Meyers
8/6: Team H/Fraunfelter **8/13:** Team A/McGarry **8/20:** Team B/Granato
8/27: Team C/Slack

Tot Spot: No schedule provided**7/2: 7/9: 7/16: 7/23: 7/30: 8/6: 8/13: 8/20: 8/27:****Tech Teams: 7/2:** 8:00 David/10:45 David **7/9:** 8:00 Ken/10:45 David

7/16: 8:00 David/10:45 Jim Butler **7/23:** 8:00 Gene/10:45 David
7/30: 8:00 David/10:45 Jim Butler **8/6:** 8:00 Ken/10:45 David
8/13: 8:00 David/10:45 Jim Butler **8/20:** 8:00 Gene/10:45 David
8/27: 8:00 Ken/10:45 Jim Butler

Ushers: 7/2: Team 2/Anspach **7/9:** Team 3/Fritz **7/16:** Team 4/Bauer

7/23: Team 5/Meyers **7/30:** Team 6/Groff **8/6:** Team 1/Pennypacker
8/13: Team 2/Anspach **8/20:** Team 3/Fritz **8/27:** Team 4/Bauer