



**Faith Stories** - Here, we can share stories of faith & God working in our lives! What has your faith journey looked like? How has your relationship with God made a difference? Who is God to you? If you're ready to share your story contact, Angela Feist (anchoredinhope@aol.com)

I guess my faith journey is a lot like a plane trip across the country – smooth but with occasional bumpy moments. I have had several events in life that have either strengthen or caused me to question my faith. I have always been somewhat envious of people whose faith is anchored as mine at times seems to be somewhat less secure. I bless God for having me meet and marry a wonderful person and provide me with 2 wonderful children as well as many great friends. God played a huge role in my life in allowing circumstances to align so that Debbie came into my life. It is said that you should marry your opposite and that is true. She has made me a better person and for that I am forever grateful that God played matchmaker. Her being in my life has strengthened my faith as well. I experienced the death of my father when I was 10 years old and a brother when I was 16 and both those events shook my faith then and to some extent continue to today. I try not to question why things happen and accept what is but I had a difficult time dealing with the fact that God took my father, with whom I was very close and left my mother with 5 children to raise on her own. It still has an effect on me some 45 years later. I also look and see people (especially children) stricken with horrible diseases of animals that are abused or neglected and question why. Some problems on earth I believe that God has provided us with the methods to resolve however I have trouble reconciling why He would allow people and families to have to suffer thru the agony of horrible diseases. It tends to shake my faith when I see that. I wish that I could have faith of Job but I think I would have a lot of trouble if even a portion of what happened to him, happened to me. I take my faith journey as day-to-day, hoping to gain more faith every day. I do not know why things happen and have gotten better over the years in accepting many things that happen but still at times question. I think at the end of the day, experiencing God thru family, friends and experiences, my faith is hopefully a little stronger that it was at the beginning of the day. Put enough of those days together and you start to hopefully strengthen the foundation. Be kind and leave everything a little better than you found it are kind of keys for living and also building on your faith as well.

David Fritz—December 2017

## JANUARY 2018 WORSHIP SERVICES & SPECIAL EVENTS



**Mon., Jan. 1—New Year's Day/Church Office Closed**

**Tues., Jan. 2—Church Council Reports Due**

**Sat., Jan. 6—Prayer Vigil, 10AM-4PM: Sanctuary**

**Sun., Jan. 7—First Sunday of Epiphany**

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

9:00 Faithfull Families

9:15 Grace Place & 9:30am Adult Sunday School

**Tues., Jan. 9—7:00PM—Council Meeting: Parlor**

**Thurs., Jan. 11—Annual Reports Due/8am**

**Sun., Jan. 14—Second Sunday of Epiphany**

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

9:00 Faithfull Families

9:15 Grace Place & 9:30am Adult Sunday School

**Sun., Jan. 21—Third Sunday of Epiphany/Baptism Sunday**

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

9:00 Faithfull Families

9:15 Grace Place & 9:30am Adult Sunday School

**Sun., Jan. 28—Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

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

9:00 Faithfull Families

9:15 Grace Place & 9:30am Adult Sunday School



**Share A Verse**

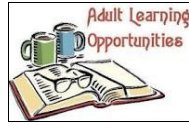
**This is an opportunity for you to share a Bible verse** that is especially meaningful to you, with other members of our church family. The verse can be followed by a brief sentence as to the reason why you like it & may include your name or not. For now, please submit any suggestions to the church office.

**The monthly newsletter & church info is always available, anytime,  
on our website at [www.gracelutheranroyersford.com](http://www.gracelutheranroyersford.com).**

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### Sunday AM Adult Faith Formation - - -

is a great way to grow your faith at any age. Join us at 9:30 for one of these spiritual growth opportunities



**PRISM:** Topics chosen by class members. Led by Mr. Richard Harshaw (choir room, lower level of church, rm. 4)

**People of the Bible:** Are the ancient women of the Bible relevant today? While we've studied these women previously, this year we'll look at them from a different perspective. Using the book, Through Her Eyes, we'll take the experiences of these women & apply them to our own lives. Each lesson is accompanied by an explanation from a seminarian at Eastern University, relating to how the experience is relevant to their life. Led by Dr. Judy Stryker (Parlor, lower level of church)

**"Mothers & Their Cake"**, an adult class led by Jan Slack, is for mothers of all ages, meets in the Social Hall kitchen, from 9:30 – 10:30am. Join us for an hour of faith-based discussions, application of scripture & prayer.

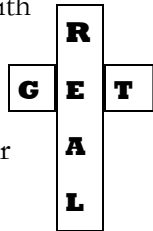


**Faith First:** Come find out how different your day can be when you begin it with God! Join this group from Grace at The Main St Café at 7am on Wednesday mornings for breakfast, prayer, and devotions. All are welcome!

**Holy Grounds:** Could this be YOUR year to learn more about the bible? Bible study on Thursday mornings teaches us how to uncover the original intent of the passage and how to consider its significance for today. Be prepared for great discussion and new insights! We meet in the parlor (lower level of church – room 5) from 9:30-11:00 am.



**Get REAL!** Join us on Monday, January 8th for dinner & a faith discussion at Giovanni's in Royersford. This monthly group enjoys great conversation about topics that matter most in our lives. Our topic for this month is Prayer" If interested, please RSVP to Angela Feist by Jan. 7th, at 570-498-5986 or [anchoredinhope@aol.com](mailto:anchoredinhope@aol.com).



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### Pastor's Points:

As we enter into a new year, let me take you back a little... remember 2 years ago when we did the Missional Assessment Profile (MAP) survey? Your responses to that tool have been a very helpful guide for council to create a mission plan for Grace. One of our top priorities identified was to increase our awareness of God's work in the world. As we've worked to do that, perhaps you've noticed ... the new Faith Sharing column in our Graceful Greetings newsletter, lay preachers sharing the Good News from the pulpit, and the Blessing Tree that helped us name our gifts from God.

Personally, I am seeing God at work in the midst of our discernment and transition process. We are blessed by a wonderful leadership team (led by Jackie Perry), an amazingly talented staff, and a congregation of people filled with the Holy Spirit. Very soon, the congregation will be invited into meetings to share your hopes and dreams for our future. Please attend these meetings and be part of naming how God is working though Grace. Thank you, God, for your gracious work in and among us!



Many thanks to all who generously donated to the Good Samaritan Fund, the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, or the Paul H. Neff Youth Scholarship Fund this year. Your kindness is making a difference in people's lives by assisting others in difficult times and providing signs of God's hope! Thank you!

A special thank you to all of the Worship Assistants, Worship Assistant Coordinators, Musicians and Office Volunteers, who help keep our worship services and office running throughout the year. We couldn't do what we do, so well, without you. Here's to another great year of working together for Grace!

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**Prayer Chain Reminder** - Please contact Jan Slack (prayer chain coordinator), 610-948-3539 or

[mjkk13539@comcast.net](mailto: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.



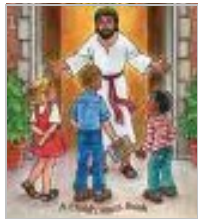
**If you miss the opportunity to stop by one of the prayer stations, there is now a "prayer box" located in the narthex.** Please complete the prayer request slip, place it in the box & the Stephen Ministers will pray for you. These can be anonymous or if you prefer you can include your name. Remember everything with & through the Stephen Ministry remains confidential. Always know we are here for you! In Christ's great love, your Stephen Ministry.

### **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 both services, for parents who are worshipping with us. Children ages 5 and under may join us in room E08 of the Education Building.

**Children's Church** is for children in KG - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, during the 10:45 worship service & is run by volunteers who do stories, games & crafts during the lessons and sermon time. Interested children go with the volunteer waiting in the narthex, after the children's sermon & return to parents in the sanctuary, during the prayers.

**Parents** – please make sure your child is in the age-appropriate place!



### **YOUTH NEWS!!!**



**Harvey Cedars paperwork is OUT!** You can get it in the back of the Narthex. Registration of \$115 (non-refundable) & the **forms are DUE by Jan. 14th** to Kelsey! Harvey Cedars retreat weekend is March 2-4! Friends are always welcome! If you want to be an adult leader and do not have up-to-date clearances (as of Jan. 2015), please see Kelsey ASAP.

**Snow tubing/skiing/boarding on Mon., Jan. 15th from 11:30am-5pm!** \$30 for tubing, \$50 for skiing/snow tubing (JUST LIFT TICKET). **Money & Waiver are due NO LATER than January 1st to Kelsey.**



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

### **Transition Talk**

Grace Lutheran's Discernment Team: Jack Claypotch, Phil Coath, Tina Meredith, Kurt Meyers, Kim Weaner, Jackie Perry, Judy Stryker, our consultant, Teri Lanan, and Pastor Kraiss, met several times through the month of December.

Our main tasks as a group have been: exploring Grace's strengths, needs, and core values; discussing and planning for soliciting feedback from you, the congregation; and, planning to navigate our way through this discernment process. Did you know that your participation in the MAP Survey is helping us do this? We're using the results of our MAP Interpretation to help guide us.

Currently, we are planning small group meetings to give you, the members of Grace, opportunities to share your ideas about where Grace is now, and should head in the future.

Please continue to pray for our work together, and keep listening for communication updates, and opportunities to share your input! We look forward to talking with you all soon!



## JANUARY PRAYER FOCUS

1. Peaceful, happy New Year
2. Commitment to adhering to our resolutions
3. Sleep (Festival of Sleep Day)
4. The Blind (Braille Day)
5. Our wonderful abundant lives (Celebration of Life Week)
6. Technology/inventions (Telegraph demonstrated 1838)
7. Health (Lose Weight and Feel Great Month)
8. All types of music (Rock and Roll Day)
9. Stepfathers (Stepfathers Day)
10. Our uniqueness (Peculiar People Day)
11. Aviators (Amelia Earhart Day)
12. Our friends (Secret Pal Day)
13. Patriotic Songs (Stephen Foster Memorial Day)
14. Clean desks! (Clean Off Your Desk Day)
15. Martin Luther King Day
16. Nothing/Be Still & know That I Am God (National Nothing Day)
17. Organizing (Get Organized Month)
18. Children's fantasy and creativity (Winnie the Pooh Day)
19. Whole grains (Popcorn Day)
20. Appreciation of God's Creation (Penguin Awareness Day)
21. Hugs (National Hugging Day)
22. Reading (National book Week)
23. God's abundance of food (Pie Day)
24. Compliments (National Compliment Day)
25. Modern medical miracles (First heart transplant 1964)
26. School nurses (School Nurse Day)
27. Light (Electric light patented 1880)
28. Astronauts (Christa McAuliffe Day/Challenger exploded in 1986)
29. Flowers (Carnation Day)
30. People with Glaucoma (Glaucoma Awareness Week)
31. The poor (Poverty in America Month)



## ABOUT PRAYER JANUARY 2018

Can you believe another year has come and gone and another year stretches before us? How can we make this a better year than last? It's once again time to make our resolutions to ourselves. What promises can we make to ourselves or better yet, to our God? This year I promise Him that I will be a better "pray"er. The past few years I've written about others' ideas on prayer. What are the best ways, the best seasons, some techniques, etc.? I am going to list a few things that God tells us about prayer in His Word, the BIBLE. Perhaps some of these verses will help you in your prayer life for 2018:

Matthew 6:6 "When you pray, you should go into your room and close the door and pray to your Father who cannot be seen. Your Father can see what is done in secret, and he will reward you".

John 16:23-24 "I tell you the truth, my Father will give you anything you ask for in my name. Ask and you will receive, so that your joy will be the fullest possible joy."

Luke 18:14b "All who make themselves great will be made humble, but all who make themselves humble will be made great."

Ephesians 6:18 "Pray in the spirit at all times with all kinds of prayer, asking for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready and never give up. Always pray for all God's people."

James 4:3 "Or when you ask, you do not receive because the reason you ask is wrong. You want things so you can use them for your own pleasure."

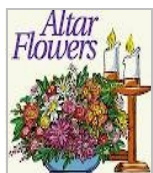
Mark 11:25 "When you are praying, if you are angry with someone, forgive him so that your Father in heaven will also forgive your sins"

**Happy "PRAYERFUL" New Year!**

**Prayer resources, guidance, and prayer helps check out ELCA website: [www.elca.org/prayer](http://www.elca.org/prayer)**

**Prayer Vigil this month: Saturday, Jan. 6, 2018 10AM-4PM  
Grace's Sanctuary, Come in the front door!**

Sue Perry / Prayer Coordinator



**We have many sponsorships open for 2018, including Flowers in January, Bulletins and more, call the office (610-948-3684) to find out more.**

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**January 2018 Worship Assistants****Trustee:** Darrell Lewis**Communion Asst.:**

**1/7:** 8:00 Joe Curran, Jan & Ken Slack, Mike & Rita Walter  
10:45 Kim Weaner, Mike & Trish McGarry, Phil & Mindy Coath  
**1/14:** 8:00 Carly Bauer & Joy Fraunfelter  
10:45 Darrell Lewis, Jean Mizas-Floyd, Tina Meredith, Maggie Finnegan & Tracy Bracale  
**1/21:** 8:00 Cindy Henson & Mike Bauer  
10:45 John Snyder, Dan Feist, Tom Sheehan, Amy & Barbara Barattucci  
**1/28:** 8:00 Terry Piersol & Karen Asbert  
10:45 Danielle Lau, Kim Fretz, Stephanie McMullan, Deb & Mac Fritz

**Acolytes/Crucifers & Torch Bearers**

**1/7:** 8:00 Kiersten I./Pooja A. 10:45 Gavin S./Ryley T.  
**1/14:** 8:00 Gracyn M./Alaina M. 10:45 Sam L./Ryan F.  
**1/21:** 8:00 Ashley R./Christopher F. 10:45 Kenny B./Grace B.  
**1/28:** 8:00 James F./Sam L. 10:45 Abby C./Lily C.

**Ushers:** **1/7:** Team 1, Rick Pennypacker  
**1/14:** Team 2, **1/21:** Team 3, David Fritz  
**1/28:** Team 4, Jim Bauer

**Counting Teams:** **1/7:** Team E,  
**1/14:** Team F, Patty Esslinger **1/21:** Team G, Kurt Meyers  
**1/28:** Team H, John Fraunfelter

**Children's Church: No Schedule Provided**

**1/7:**  
**1/14:**  
**1/21:**  
**1/28:**

**Faith Full Families:** **1/7:** Danielle Lau **1/14:** Karen Thomson  
**1/21:** Kelsey Hlavac **1/28:** Brenda Johnson



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**Altar Guild:** Patty Esslinger & Debbie Fritz**Greeters**

**1/7:** 8:00 Debbie Moore/Glenn Peak  
10:45 **No Schedule Provided**  
**1/14:** 8:00 John & Denise Staub/George & Helen Schad  
10:45  
**1/21:** 8:00 John & Hilde Holms/Sandra Kerchner  
10:45  
**1/28:** 8:00 Jim & Gloria Bauer/Mark & Patty Esslinger  
10:45

**Readers:**

**1/7:** 8:00 Brittany Staub 10:45 Cindy Butler  
**1/14:** 8:00 David Mahaney 10:45 Tina Meredith  
**1/21:** 8:00 Joe Curran 10:45 David Fritz  
**1/28:** 8:00 Karen Asbert 10:45 Sandy Kulick

**Tot Spot:**

**1/7:** 8:00 Becki Fretz 10:45 Kim Fretz  
**1/14:** 8:00 Judy Styrker 10:45 Mandy Gonzalez  
**1/21:** 8:00 Peg Shiley 10:45 Amy Barattucci  
**1/28:** 8:00 OPEN 10:45 Debbie Armstrong

**Tech Table:**

**1/7:** 8:00 John Staub 10:45 Barbara  
**1/14:** 8:00 David Fritz 10:45 David Mull  
**1/21:** 8:00 Ken Slack 10:45 David Fritz  
**1/28:** 8:00 Gene Capor 10:45 Jim Butler

**Children's Sermons:** **1/7:** Judy Lukens **1/14:** Darrell Lewis  
**1/21:** Jack Claypotch **1/28:** Kelsey Hlavac

