

April 2021
Graceful Greetings



APRIL 2021 WORSHIP SERVICES

If you prefer to worship online, our services can be found on our website under the “Worship” tab & on our Facebook page or YouTube channel.



- Sun., April 4—Easter Sunday**
- Sun., April 11—2nd Sunday of Easter**
- Sun., April 18—3rd Sunday of Easter**
- Sun., April 25—4th Sunday of Easter**

Worship update:

Grace's church council has approved resuming outdoor in-person worship services in April!!! Yes - Easter!!!! This approval is based upon our comfort level in being able to worship with minimal risk of infection, due to Montgomery County's current positivity rate (5.2%), number of cases/100K/day (22.5), and ICU capacity (81%). Please go to www.covidactnow.org for interpretation of these numbers.



Beginning on **Easter Sunday, April 4th**, Grace will offer an in-person outdoor service in addition to an indoor (NOT IN-PERSON) livestreamed service. Please see our Easter and our April worship schedules below for exact worship times. All worshipers at our outdoor in-person services will be required to wear a mask and maintain 6' of distance between households. Communion will be distributed with our individually packaged communion kits. Please bring a lawn chair and umbrella. Rain or shine!!! At this time, no registration will be needed to attend outdoor services.

Council continues to monitor the situation and will joyfully begin to offer indoor, in-person worship when we feel Grace can do this without putting our community at unnecessary risk. Thank you for your patience and your efforts to stop this pandemic. Come worship outside or continue to worship via our livestream/recorded services.

April worship at Grace: *(please note time changes in outdoor)*

- April 4:** Easter! 6:30 am: Outdoor IN-PERSON worship on Main St. lawn- 30 minutes
 9 am: Livestream (NOT IN-PERSON) from sanctuary
 10:30 am: Outdoor IN-PERSON worship on office lawn- 30 minutes

April 11: Two virtual worship opportunities will be available on our website today! Check them both out: Virtual worship with the annual youth retreat - join us to feel young at heart! Virtual worship led by SEPA synod for the 2nd Sunday of Easter.

April 18 & 25: 9 am Livestream service on YouTube channel (not in-person)
 10:15 am Outdoor service (In-person on office lawn); approximately 25-30 minutes. Rain or shine - bring lawn chair and umbrella!

Pastor's Points:

Today, it feels like spring. The sun is radiating warmth, and light, and I'm pretty sure - some kind of mood-lifter! When I look out my office window, I see no signs of a pandemic. Aaaaah....

Tomorrow? Well, I'm going to hope for another beautiful day, but weather is fickle (especially winter weather in PA) and life is full of changes. And, yes, Coronavirus is still with us. Whatever tomorrow brings, I hope to remember the beauty of today and the faithfulness of our God and promises that God has made. I hope to face whatever tomorrow brings with hope – trusting that spring really will come, this pandemic will pass, and God will continue creating and re-creating life around us. What are you doing tomorrow?



From The Deacon's Desk:

As I am writing this column, I am looking outside my window on a sunny day as many robins are poking around mine and my neighbor's yard. Last week, I visited Longwood Gardens, where, despite the fact that all signs still pointed to it being winter, thousands of crocuses had burst into bloom. I love Spring, and probably because of that, I love Easter. (Or maybe because I love Easter, I love Spring! J)

Whenever I find myself wondering about the resurrection – and the shock of Jesus' followers as he stood again before them – I remember that Spring is a sign that God is always about bringing new life out of what is dead. Transformation is built into the DNA of creation.

Perhaps this past year we have felt as if we have been in a kind of “tomb,” wondering when things would change back to what they were. Maybe they won't be what they were, but God does indeed promise new life and transformation of what was dead into something new and wonderful. Praying that this Easter finds you feeling to the joy of that resurrection and transformation!

Information on Prayer Requests—We are thrilled for Joanne Palmer that she is able to return to full time work; however, that means that she will not be available to help us coordinate the prayer list anymore. We are discerning who might be a good fit for this task that wonderfully connects us all together in our joys and concerns. Until we find someone to fill this ministry, please send any prayer requests into the church office via email at gracelutrn@verizon.net or phone message at 610-948-3684. Thank you for sharing your joys & concerns and praying for others.



Holy Week & Easter Services:

These services will be livestreamed to YouTube and saved to our website. Please join us and share their links with others!



Maundy Thursday, April 1 (7 pm) Hear Mark's gospel story of the suffering of Christ – the last supper, betrayal and arrest of Jesus. We will celebrate communion and strip the altar.

Good Friday, April 2 (7 pm) The Seven Last Words of Christ will be read with reflections as the church slowly darkens in anticipation of the sealing of the tomb.

April 4: Easter! **6:30 am:** Outdoor IN-PERSON worship on Main St. lawn - 30 minutes
 9 am: Livestream (NOT IN-PERSON) from sanctuary
 10:30 am: Outdoor IN-PERSON worship on office lawn - 30 minutes



CALLING ALL GARDENERS.....Oh what a winter we have had. More snow than in a few years with a bit of ice to top it all off. Well, it will be spring before you know it, this will all melt and the garden will be ready to start its 9th year. We are always looking for members to join this fun outdoor ministry that brings fresh vegetables to our local community residents in need. Please contact Kurt Meyers at kmeyers413@verizon.net if you would like to be a part of this ministry.

YOUTH NEWS

Facebook & Instagram Live Posts: Watch for Kelsey on Facebook & Instagram, doing live posts on Thursdays for a sing-a-long song!



Youth & Newsletters: We are going to continue online G.R.A.C.E. Place for April as weekly newsletters. They will be sent via email, so please let Kelsey know if you do not receive a newsletter! The month of April we will be focusing more on Bible stories and how the heck they can relate to your life! We will meet Sundays at **8:30-9:00am** via zoom to talk about, learn more & experience the Bible story. Please note the time change starting in April, so you can also participate in our morning livestreamed service. We will *not* have programming on Sunday, April 4th, Easter.

Easter: You may get EGGED! Keep an eye out for a bag of eggs delivered to your home that is filled with a fun Easter surprise for your family!

Tuscarora: 6th – 12th graders are invited to join the spring retreat, Tuscarora, virtually this year on Saturday, April 10th. Registration is open through April 1st. Cost is \$20. Possible opportunity for in-person at church for the day.

High School: Kelsey misses you all! Watch out for info on the ELCA Youth Gathering for 2022!



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

Check Out These Other Great Ways to Stay Connected

Conversation & Community (AKA - Pub Theology) - Pub Theology is now “Conversation & Community” to better give everyone an idea as to what we are all about. It is a time to gather in conversation with others from the congregation (and any friends we bring along) to build relationship even when we can’t be together in a physical space. We will discuss events and topics relevant to our faith or to things going on in the world around us. **Our next Zoom gathering will be on Thursday, April 15th at 7:00 pm. (note that we will meet on the 3rd Thursday from now on)** Contact Deacon Allison at deaconallison12@gmail.com if you’d like a link or to be on a list of ongoing participants. (note: C&C has now moved to the third Thursday of the month. So mark your calendars)!



Deacon Allison’s Zoom Bible Study—Our Zoom Bible Studies on the Gospel of Mark continues at 7:00pm, on Monday evenings and at 10:00am, on Thursday mornings. We’d love to have you join us at one of these times! Contact deaconallison12@gmail.com for more information about this or our current studies.

Coffee Hour with Deacon Allison on Sundays at noon. Missing seeing your Grace friends? You don't have to! Join this zoom meeting just to chat and check in with one another. You'll be glad you did! Call church office for zoom link.



2 Facebook Live Opportunities —Join Deacon Allison on Fridays at 10:00 am for a deeper dive into one of the week’s devotionals. See our Facebook page for more detail. Also, either Pastor Kraiss or Deacon Allison will lead Facebook Live prayer time on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am.

Daily Devotions written by Deacon Allison. These are a beautiful & faithful way to begin your day with God. Find them on the Grace fb page, or go to <https://gracemorningdevotion.blogspot.com/>.



Mothers and Cake! Please accept your invitation to join in conversation with a warm and caring group of mothers full of life and faith on Sunday mornings at 9:30. This group of moms gathers by Zoom to spend some time encouraging & being encouraged. For information & the zoom link, please contact Jan Slack at mjkk13539@comcast.net.

Stay “connected” wherever you go! We’re all over social media!!

Website: www.gracelutheranroyersford.com

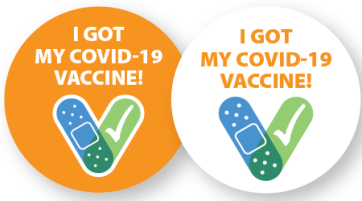
YouTube Channel: [gracelutheranroyersford](https://www.youtube.com/gracelutheranroyersford)

Facebook search: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Email: gracelutrn@verizon.net

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

Twitter search: [@gracelutheran12](https://twitter.com/gracelutheran12)



Having difficulty finding the vaccine?

Check out vaccinatepa.org for assistance in locating available vaccines!

You can also check out the **Dr. B's list of vaccines website** to sign up to be on the **local standby list**: <https://hidrb.com/> or if you reside in the Spring-ford School District and are age 65+, you may register for the vaccine by sending an email to: sfcovidcommunity@gmail.com. In the email, please include your first and last name, telephone phone number, email address, date of birth, and home zip code.

If you would like to learn about the vaccines and how they were created check out the link below for the Vaccine special for Discovery +.

<https://press.discovery.com/us/dsc/programs/vaccine-conquering-covid/>

Set against the backdrop of a rising global death count and a pandemic that has left the world on edge, the special goes behind the scenes of the race for a vaccine and features interviews with the world's leading doctors involved including Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health; and Dr. John Mascola of the National Institutes of Health, as well as interviews with scientists from leading pharmaceutical companies including Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer.

The special also details the heroic efforts of early trial volunteers, including Jen Haller, a Seattle resident who became the first person in the United States to receive the Moderna vaccine. Viewers will hear firsthand accounts from those at the forefront of the pandemic as well as from leaders such Colorado Governor Jared Polis who details the strategy behind successfully rolling out and distributing the vaccines to the masses and the hurdles leaders are facing along the way.

Video Recording Now Available: Gain Clarity About COVID-19 and the Vaccines

Dr. Glenn Rall, expert immunologist, Professor and Chief Academic Officer at the Fox Chase Cancer Center and Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs at the Lewis Katz School of Medicine in Philadelphia, shared his expertise earlier today with Almo team members on the state of the COVID-19 virus, the scientific make-up of the COVID-19 vaccines and their efficacy. Dr. Rall debunked common myths around vaccines and their side effects and addressed vaccine hesitancy. Rich with useful and truthful, science-based information, don't miss this session. Use this link to watch the one-hour session and don't hesitate to share with your friends and family.

https://zoom.us/rec/share/7I5pGUvppFsFY-HFjiboRe8BMe1_rTL-zDpMPzFIXJ0hvpD7aHn5UYRJcxp2bDmM.miT5ZtmLvCc2XIt3

Access Passcode: s3Y.n\$H3



