



May 2021

Graceful Greetings



MAY 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., May 2—5th Sunday of Easter
- Sun., May 9—6th Sunday of Easter
- Sun., May 16—7th Sunday of Easter
- Sun., May 23—Pentecost Sunday
- Sun., May 30—Trinity Sunday

Worship update:

With great joy, Grace began to offer in-person OUTDOOR worship on Easter Sunday. With the cooperation of our worshipers wearing masks and maintaining 6’ of distance between households, we believe that we can continue to offer safe, weekly outdoor worship on Sundays at 10:15 am. We recognize that some churches are providing indoor in-person worship, but Grace will continue to refrain from the indoor gatherings due to the rising number of new cases & increasing positivity rate. (Montgomery County does not meet any of the 3 metrics for “safe” indoor gatherings.) Grace is choosing to be a congregation that doesn’t potentially spread this virus or increase the likelihood that virus variations will become greater threats.



We know this is hard. We thank you for your patience as we get closer to gathering indoors. We invite you to participate in the life of the church through outdoor worship on Sundays at 10:15am (office lawn) or joining the livestream on Youtube at 9 am. (And check out our online bible studies, Pub Theology, coffee hour, and other events that gather us as Church!)

While we wait for fuller “openings”, the council is excited and enthusiastic about what is ahead! We are praying and planning and listening and visioning and working towards God’s tomorrow. Please join us in living into God’s vision for a safe and healthy creation.

Sunday Worship options overview

- 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!**



GIVE
BLOOD.
GIVE
LIFE.

We are grateful for those who came out to give the gift of life at Grace’s recent blood drive. We got 8 units from 11 donors. It was nice being in the welcome center. Our next blood drive will be July 13th; if you would be interested in donating blood, please contact Susan Firering or the Church Office, for more information.

Pastor's Points:

Easter morning 2021. 45 degrees outside. Seventeen people gathered on the front lawn of the church. The Easter fire (to symbolize the return of the Light) burning steadily in a fire pit. At about 6:35 am while the dawn was still breaking, Joyce Berner began to sing. No organ or brass... just her voice lifting over the quiet neighborhood... "Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!" It was a goosebumps moment.

As much as I love an Easter morning filled with all the traditional festivities, there was something very special and authentic about this one. It couldn't have gotten much simpler – a small group of believers gathered to hear the resurrection proclaimed and sung. A little band of followers witnessing in the heart of our community that Christ is risen indeed! In big ways or small ways, may your spirit give voice to the Easter miracle that Jesus is alive in your life.

"But the angel said... 'Do not be afraid... He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said.'"
Matthew 28:5-6



From The Deacon's Desk:

A few weeks ago, I ran across this quote on the Facebook page for ELCA clergy. "If our institutions fifteen months from now look like they did fifteen months ago, plus webcams, we have failed this moment." It was written by pastor, writer, speaker, MaryAnn McKibben-Dana and she put down in words something that had been niggling at me for a while now.

Now that many of us are vaccinated and longing to be together again in person, it might be the right time to ask, "Who are we now?" The question of who we are has always been a good one for people of God, but now that we have undergone so much, that question feels more significant than ever. We have been changed over these past 14 or so months and to just go back exactly to how things were doesn't feel quite right. Lessons that were learned, growth that happened, creative ideas that were shared, new ways of being that were expressed – those are things to rejoice about, even as we mourn the losses we've experienced.

So who are we now? How do we go forward continuing to embrace the new while also returning to the familiar? And how do we resist the temptation to go from 0-60 in no time flat?

New Prayer List Coordinator—We are excited to announce that Becky Leonard will be stepping up, as our new Prayer List Coordinator. Becky is a wonderful addition to our volunteers, who help keep our church family connected and growing. Please send any prayer requests to Becky at bellpn@aol.com or you can call the church office at 610-948-3684 and leave a message. Thank you for sharing your joys & concerns and praying for others.



Lorraine's Hearing Fund (created to provide financial assistance to members of Grace who have a hearing impairment), will take applications for those needing equipment/devices, education, or technology. Awards up to \$2,500 each will be considered for applicants. To apply, email Roxanne Troiano (rmtroiano@verizon.net) and she will either email or mail you an application (whichever is best for the applicant). All applications must be received by May 31, 2021. Applicants will be notified in June of eligibility and the amount of the award. Please direct questions to committee members: Roxanne Troiano or Pastor Kraiss (jkrais.gracelutrn@verizon.net). **If you would like to financially support this fund, donations may be made out to Grace Lutheran Church (write Lorraine's Hearing Fund in memo). Thank you!**



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's spring now 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 May, as weekly newsletters. They will be sent via email, so please let Kelsey know if you do not receive a newsletter! The month of May 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, so you can also participate in our morning livestreamed service. Supply pick-up will be Sunday, May 16th at 8:30-9:00am.

High School: There will be summer dates for high school bonfires. Keep your eyes (and calendars) open for those dates!

ELCA Youth Gathering: Graduating Seniors: We invite you to volunteer with the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2022! Learn more about volunteering with the Gathering here: <https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering/Attend/Volunteer>

All Other High School Youth: Keep your eyes out for info on attending the 2022 Youth Gathering.



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, May 20th at 7:00 pm. (Note that we meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month now. Mark your calendars for our next one on June 16th).** Contact Deacon Allison at deaconallison12@gmail.com if you’d like a link or to be on a list of ongoing participants



Deacon Allison’s Zoom Bible Study—We will be finishing our Zoom Bible Study on the Gospel of Mark this month. Beginning **June 7th**, we will start a study of the **Gospel of John** to get a sense of how different the gospels can be in their telling of the good news of Jesus Christ. We will continue to meet at 7:00 pm on Monday evenings and at 10:00 am on Thursday mornings. We’d love to have you join us at one of these times! Contact deaconallison12@gmail.com for more information.

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 —**Time changes to note on both of our Facebook Live events each week!** Join Deacon Allison on **Thursdays at noon** for a deeper dive into one of the week’s devotionals. Also, either Pastor Kraus or Deacon Allison will return to leading Facebook Live prayer time on **Sunday mornings at 11:00 am**, instead of 11:30 as we have been doing for the past few months.

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)



Scholarship
Program

STRUNK FUND APPLICATIONS

Letters of application are being accepted now through the end of May for scholarships for 2 or 4 year colleges, or trade schools. You must be enrolled as a full-time student, in an undergraduate degree program. You may only be eligible for this scholarship for a maximum of four (4) years. Awards will be given in July/August. The committee will announce the recipients of the scholarships in June. All applicants must be a baptized/confirmed member of Grace Lutheran Church and new applicants are required to write a letter of application which includes the following information:

1. Your service & manner of attendance to Sunday School and church. If you are worshipping online at Grace, submit a selfie that shows you worshipping online OR a screen shot of the service.
2. List youth group activities, which must include service projects (i.e. work camps, work days, national youth gathering, etc.).
3. Your high school scholastic record if you are to start college, or past college records if you are in college presently. Copies of official transcripts must be included.
4. Name of school, course selections & whether you will be a resident or commuter student.
5. Civic organizations and high school activities in which you participate.
6. If you previously received a grant from the Strunk Fund, the following information is required: an official school transcript and list of your activities since your last application.
 - A. College transcripts, must have a minimum 2.0 average to be eligible for consideration.
 - B. Participation in a service project either at college, in the community or the church & a letter from the organization, stating your involvement.
 - C. Regular worship attendance at a church or chapel, while at college. Worship may be:
 - 1- In-person (Submit bulletin or picture from worship service)
 - 2- Online (Submit a selfie showing you worshipping online OR a screen shot of online service)
 - 3- Campus bible study group (Submit selfie that shows you with group)
 - D. Regular worship attendance at Grace, while home for breaks.

Applications are to be received by the church office by May 31st and clearly marked as Strunk Fund Application. No applications will be accepted after May 31st. A submitted application does not guarantee a scholarship.

...The Strunk Fund Committee:

Debbie Armstrong, Joy Fraunfelter, Kelsey Tomlinson, Glenn Peak & Pastor Kraus

**All requirements must be met (all carry equal value) to receive a scholarship.
Content & Revisions approved by Church Council 10/13/2020**

