

February 2021

# Graceful Greetings



## FEBRUARY 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., Feb. 7—5th Sunday of Epiphany  
Sun., Feb. 14—Transfiguration of Our Lord  
Wed., Feb. 17—Ash Wednesday  
Sun., Feb. 21—1st Sunday of Lent  
Sun., Feb. 28—2nd Sunday of Lent

### Worship update:

Worship services (along with Sunday School, Bible Studies, small groups, and fellowship gatherings) continue to be held virtually at Grace during the current upward trend of the virus. We pray for the number of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths to decrease so that we will be able to safely gather in-person again soon. These changes will be communicated to you via the website and email. (If you are not receiving emails from Grace, check your spam folder or call the office to make sure you are on our list!)

Once we can gather again in-person, we will all still need to maintain the current safety guidelines – at home, in our neighborhoods, and at church. Per the Montgomery County Office of Public Health: wear your masks, maintain 6 feet of social distance, wash hands frequently, work from home when possible, refrain from going out as much as possible. And now... get your vaccine when you become eligible! This becomes the next way we show love to our neighbors! (and to ourselves!)

For now, please pray for all who have been and remain affected by Corona virus. May health be restored, grieving hearts find peace, and rest be found.



**Please join us for our Annual Meeting!** It will be held on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup> via zoom, (a link will be sent via email, in advance). Your input is important as we discuss ministries, mission, vision, budgets, and more. Reports will be available on our website on January 24<sup>th</sup>. If you do NOT have internet access and wish to receive a hard copy, you will need to call the church office.



## Pastor's Points:

This year, our Lenten theme (Life from the Ashes) feels especially pertinent. Who hasn't experienced grief of some sort? Who hasn't been affected by loss of some kind? Whose heart is untouched by the events of the world? We all could use some time to process our grief and learn about the effects that the communal grief of a pandemic, racial struggles, and political unrest has had on us all.



But, talking about grief isn't how the conversation ends... as people of faith, we also are invited to turn our faces towards God. We strive towards seeing God in our midst and being encouraged in the hope of Christ. We support one another to heal and to lean into the beautiful future God desires for us.

I hope you'll join Grace and other Royersford churches to gather on Wednesday evenings in Lent. We look forward to building community and relationships among the churches.

*Gracious Lord, with mere dust, you created us in your image; and from ashes, you bring new life. Thank you for your miracles. Amen.*



## From The Deacon's Desk: Lent in a Year of Lent

It was Lent when we last met together as a community at Grace. As of this month, that's 11 months ago. It was a year ago this month that Darrell Lewis and I gave out ashes at Phoenixville Hospital on Ash Wednesday. At the time, I remember the staff – nurses and doctors – asked for prayers as they prepared to face this strange new virus that was spreading. In many ways it still feels like Lent. We did celebrate both Easter and Christmas over these past 11 months, but the slowness of the time and the quieter way in which they were celebrated was out of our norm.

And now we enter Lent again. How do we acknowledge that in this Lenten "year?" How do we enter a time of repentance in a year where there was so much suffering? This year, our Lenten focus will be on grief: the griefs we share and the griefs we've faced alone. Our hope is that in the sharing of our grief, we might move toward Easter with hearts that have been somewhat unburdened. To begin this Lent, we will be doing Ash Wednesday a little bit differently this year. See other places in this newsletter for details!

Wishing you God's peace as we enter this season!

**New Prayer List Coordinator**—After serving as the Prayer List Coordinator for many years, Jan Slack is passing the baton on; we thank her for her faithful service. Our new Prayer List Coordinator will be Joanne Palmer. Please contact her with any prayer requests at 610-207-6409 or email: [jpalm@wedgpc.com](mailto:jpalm@wedgpc.com). We welcome Joanne to this ministry!



## Check Out These Other Great Ways to Stay Connected

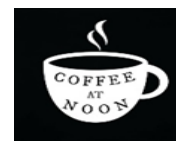
### Conversation & Community (formerly Pub Theology) -

We've changed the name but the idea is the same! 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, February 18th at 7pm (note this is a new time for 2021)** Contact Deacon Allison or the church office at 610-948-3684, if you'd like a link or to be on a list of ongoing participants. (note: C&C is also making the change of moving to the third Thursday of the month. So mark your calendars)!



**Deacon Allison's Zoom Bible Study**—Our Zoom Bible Studies continue at 7:00pm on Monday evenings and at 10:00am on Thursday mornings. Both groups will study the Gospel of Mark, as we enter the year of Mark in our lectionary. We'd love to have you join us at one of these times! Contact Deacon Allison or the church office at 610-948-3684, 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 10:00am for a deeper dive into one of the week's devotionals. See our Facebook page for more details. Also, either Pastor Kraiss or Deacon Allison will lead Facebook Live prayer time on Sunday mornings at 11:00am.

**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.



**Ash Wednesday Zoom Service**—Join as at **7:00pm on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**, for a Zoom worship service. Ashes will be provided, that you can pick up ahead of time at the church, or you can make your own. An email will be sent with more details & link for the service.



Stay "connected" wherever you go! We're all over social media!!

**Website:** [www.gracelutheranroyersford.com](http://www.gracelutheranroyersford.com)

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

**Facebook search:** Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

**Email:** [gracelutrn@verizon.net](mailto:gracelutrn@verizon.net)

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

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

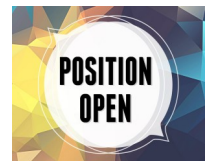


**Join us on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** to begin the season of Lent. There are 2 opportunities: Drive-through Prayer and Ashes will be available in the church parking lot from noon – 2pm. (Pastor Kraiss will pray with you while you may mark your own forehead with ashes provided.) At 7pm, worship with Deacon Allison & Pastor Kraiss on zoom. (You may use ashes from your own fireplace or contact us to receive a container of ashes in advance.) Ashes in small containers will be available to be picked up from the church office porch, at your convenience, Sun., Feb 14 through Wed., Feb 17. A zoom link for the evening service will be provided in an email, or contact the church office.

**“Life from the Ashes”** will be our Wednesday evenings’ Lenten theme. This will be hosted by the leadership of the Royersford Churches in Action. Each Wednesday evening, we will have prayer & devotions, along with a discussion about grief. What is it and how do we heal? What have been the losses of individuals?... of the community?... of those from whom we are different? Where is God in this? These gatherings will be via zoom, from 7-8pm, Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17 & 24. Zoom link to follow in an email.

### POSITION AVAILABLE ON ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

We currently have a position open on the Endowment Committee. The term is 3years and will be effective immediately. We are looking preferably for a church member who has an interest in and/or aptitude for financial & investment matters. The committee presently meets quarterly—usually the 1st Thursday evening. For additional info., please contact John Fraunfelter by email [john.fraunfelter01@gmail.com](mailto:john.fraunfelter01@gmail.com) or by phone at 267-663-1813.



### YOUTH NEWS



#### Facebook & Instagram Live Posts:

Watch for Kelsey on Facebook & Instagram, doing live posts Wednesdays around 4PM for a more family focused post & Thursdays for a sing-a-long song!

**G.R.A.C.E. Place Newsletters:** We are going to continue online G.R.A.C.E. Place for February as weekly newsletters. They will be sent via email, so please let Kelsey know if you do not receive a newsletter! These newsletters will contain activities for youth and families with topics such as physical health & bullying. These topics will include faith formation pieces.

Along with these newsletters, we’ll also have zoom check-in and for lent, a storytelling, on Sunday's at 9:00am with Kelsey, for all ages & once a month Kelsey will be at Grace with a supply bag for the month that can include supplies for any activities in the newsletters or supplies to create a sacred space in your home! The newsletters & the emails will remind you of these dates! You can stop by the church parking lot at 9:00am for a bag or just to say hello (all while being safe with masks & social distancing). **So, the schedule of events looks like this: Feb 7th, 21st, & 28th Zoom. Feb. 14th Supply pick-up!**

**High School:** Kelsey misses you all! Watch out for texts to stay connected!



**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Grace Lutheran Youth Group**  
**“Like” us to see recent news & events**



## Grace's "Green" Good News

*A new column written by Rose Hlavac (Kelsey's mom)*

### **Water is not a Renewable Resource?**

The earth's surface is split about 29% land and 71% water, and has been estimated at 326 million trillion gallons (yes, that is 326 followed by 18 zeros). It sure sounds like plenty of water doesn't it? And it is the same amount of water we've had since the earth was formed!

God blessed us with a marvelous, automated, **Reuse** and **Recycle** process to recycle the finite water resources on our earthly home - evaporation, transpiration, condensation, precipitation, runoff, repeat.

But not all of that 326 million trillion gallons are available for us to use at any point in time. A vast amount of that water (97%) is in the form of salty ocean water, which is difficult and expensive to harvest into drinkable water. And you are walking around with quite a bit of water as well since up to 60% of an adult human body is water. There is water in the glaciers, clouds and even water you can't see in aquifers underground.

For those of you that get your water from a well, you are harvesting the water from those underground aquifers. And you are all too aware of a significant issue with the water cycle. Accessibility. Depending on how deep your well is, the word "drought" can make even the most mild-mannered parents turn into the "shower police" (been there, done that), dreading the thought (and cost) of drilling a deeper well, or worse yet, a dried up aquifer! As are most of God's blessings, His water cycle works on God's time, not ours. Some places are flooding while others may be experiencing a water shortage, and it is difficult to manually distribute the excess flood water from the US to farmers facing a drought in Africa.

Since water is not very portable and there is no way to know when we may face a water shortage, it is important we are good stewards of the water we have, when we have it. Don't pollute, and do your part to take care of that third R, **Reduce**, that God left in our hands.

Things you can do to **Reduce** your water usage include turning off the water while you brush your teeth, spending less time in the shower (1 less minute a day saves an average of 1638 gallons a year), purchasing a water saving shower head, setting the level on your washing machine for the correct size load, and fix those leaks just to name a few. On a more global level, remember that everything from crops we eat, crops to feed livestock we eat, and even crops to grow that cotton for our clothes use water. The [FDA](#) estimates that about 30-40% of all food in the US is wasted. Did you know it takes about 2637 gallons of water to make a pair of jeans! Be a good steward of the gifts God has blessed you with, or to quote my Mom, "Waste not, want not".

## FEBRUARY Prayer Focus



1. Freedom for all (National Freedom Day)
2. Small creatures of creation (Groundhog's Day)
3. Good bakers (Great American Pie Month)
4. Our mail carriers (Thank a Mail Carrier Day)
5. National weathermen (National Weatherman's Day)
6. Being kind (Pay A Compliment Day)
7. Black Americans (Black History Month)
8. Boy Scouts (Boy Scouts founded in 1910)
9. Children of Alcoholics (National Children of Alcoholic's Week)
10. Healthier habits (Heart Month)
11. Inventors (National Inventors' Day)
12. Abraham Lincoln (Birthday)
13. Change (Get A Different Name Day)
14. Love (St. Valentines' Day)
15. George Washington (Presidents' Day)
16. Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday)
17. Ash Wednesday
18. Brides and Grooms (National Wedding Month)
19. Favorite Things (National Wine and Chocolate Mint Day)
20. Parents and Teachers (PTA founded this week in 1897)
21. Our Friends (Friendship Week)
22. Our pets (Love Your Pet Week)
23. Variety of people around the world (Girl Scouts Thinking Day)
24. Our Marines (Iwo Jima Day)
25. People suffering from eating disorders (Eating Disorders Awareness Week)
26. Soldiers (Operation Desert Storm started 1991)
27. Nuts (National Pistachio Day)
28. Beautiful Flowers (Floral Design Day)

*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church*  
*The Reverend Janelle L. Kraiss, Pastor*  
*Deacon Allison Wilcox*  
*Located at 6th Avenue & Main Street*  
*594 Church Street - 1st Fl. (Office & Mailing)*  
*Royersford, PA 19468*

**DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH 2021  
ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS  
IS Monday, February 15th**