

September 2021
Graceful Greetings



SEPTEMBER 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., September 5—15th Sunday after Pentecost
Sun., September 12—16th Sunday after Pentecost
Sun., September 19—17th Sunday after Pentecost
Sun., September 26—18th Sunday after Pentecost

Fall Worship at Grace: Here's what Sunday mornings in the fall will look like:

8:15 am: Traditional worship in the sanctuary, centered on Word & Sacrament. Inspiring music, faithful preaching, life-giving Communion. (Communion will initially be celebrated using communion kits.) The 8:15 worship service is immediately in need of volunteers who will click through a power point for the service. This is an easy job, but very important! Please contact the church office if you are willing to do this!



9:30 am: Grace Place! (Sunday School for 1st- 6th grades) Confirmation classes will run from 9:15-10:15. Check out the details on our youth section of the newsletter.

10:30 am: Contemporary worship in the sanctuary, centered on Word and Sacrament, in a less formal format. Spirit-filled music by Spirit of Grace praise band. Children's sermon by Kelsey. Communion will initially be celebrated using communion kits. This service will be livestreamed to our Youtube channel at GraceLutheranRoyersford. Subscribe to receive notifications and don't forget to talk with us in the chat!

Grace will continue to offer outdoor worship at our WoW (Worship on Wednesdays) at 6:30 pm. (Come early at 6 pm for conversation or bring your dinner to eat with us!) We meet on the office lawn for about 30-40 minutes and we do celebrate communion. So far, we've always had gentle breezes and singing birds! (Don't forget to bring a lawn chair!)

The 10:30 am worship livestream is always recorded and saved to our website at www.GraceLutheranRoyersford.com, where you can view it at your convenience.

Grace will continue to follow CDC and local guidelines for masks and other recommendations. Because the situation can change rapidly, we ask you to be flexible at worship *and be ready to wear a mask (when recommended by the CDC) for the protection of yourself and our children, who are not eligible for vaccination.* (We're a family church – we love our kids!) Please continue to follow social distance guidelines, especially when you are in the buildings

We look forward to gathering in other exciting ways this fall too! Watch for information on food truck Sundays, family-friendly and safe service projects following worship, and a church picnic at Victory Park. Join us. Bring a friend (or 5). Give yourself the gift of weekly worship to renew and grow and experience God's grace.

Pastor's Points: Just a quick, but heart-felt "thank you" to all who have encouraged and supported the Grace leadership, especially over the last 18 months. Thank you for your patience during rapidly changing guidelines. Thank you for your words of support as we tried to quickly adapt to new technologies. Thank you for showing grace in a time when none of us have the answers, but are trying every day to faithfully lead God's people. Thank you for your financial support and for offering to assist with the many things needed to continue good ministry. Thank you for your prayers for our wisdom, leadership, and personal well-being. I thank God for you.



From the Deacon's Desk: Finding Respite with God

If you are like me, the past year and a half has been fraught with tension and anxiety. In addition to the ongoing stress of COVID, there seems to be a huge chasm between many of us. Friends, neighbors and even family members have broken with those with whom they disagree. And then there are all the worries about the climate, racial tensions, what's happening in Afghanistan, natural disasters and more. It's led to a rise in stress & mental health issues.

So what do we do? What do *you* do when tensions run high? How do you find some peace in the midst of the storm? I posed this question on Facebook and want to ask it again here. **Let me know what ways you are finding to help relieve stress and find some rest and renewal with God during this time.** Next month I'll let you know some of the answers I've gotten and make some suggestions of my own.

If you are looking for a way to help people in need, **Lutheran Disaster Response** (ELCA) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. Go to their website at: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/>. You'll find many ways that you can help including relief for those affected by wildfires, the people of Haiti and Afghan refugees.



Grace Lutheran Church Fundraiser for Lorraine's Hearing Fund

(provides financial assistance to individuals who have been diagnosed with a hearing impairment)

When: Thursday, September 2, 2021

Where: Giovanni's Pizza and Restaurant, 466 Main St., Royersford

Hours: 10am-9:30pm

(A portion of the day's proceeds will be donated to Lorraine's Hearing Fund)
Why cook in this heat, when you can have a date night or a night out with friends, have someone else cook for you and raise money for a great cause?



Worship volunteers are needed immediately!!! Please help worship run smoothly by volunteering to usher, count offering, read lessons, or help at the tech desk. Most of these will not require serving more than once every 2 months, and scheduling is very flexible. We train and it's a great way to serve God and the congregation! (Our need for tech desk volunteers is especially great- if you can click through a power point, we need you!) If interested, or you have questions, please contact the church office at gracelutrn@verizon.net or 610-948-3684, or contact the following leaders: Ushers: Madison Johnson, Counters: Kurt Meyers, Readers: Joy Fraunfelter, Tech Helpers: Jim Butler. **THANK YOU!!!!**



Unity Day is Coming...September 11! Social Ministry & Faith Engagement at Grace has been running a collection drive to benefit the residents at Golden Age Manor, in Royersford. During Unity Day, the community will pack bags for the residents, using the items we collected. Volunteers are needed on Unity Day to help supervise packing the bags. To help, please contact the church office at 610-948-3684 or Diane Harshaw or Angela Feist.

YOUTH NEWS

G.R.A.C.E. Place is Starting Sept. 12th from 9:30am – 10:15am!

Kindergarten & under (with parents) will meet on the lawn of the church office.

1st – 2nd grade will meet at the church doors of 6th Ave (by the welcome center); 3rd – 4th will meet on 6th Ave welcome center side;

and 5th – 6th grade will meet by the welcome center on the parking lot side. All classes will meet outside for fall and will socially distance.

We're looking for volunteers to help lead these classes. Please be prayerful about this opportunity and email Kelsey if you'd like to lead a class.



Leadership Camp Events: Tyler Lau wants YOU to help the environment!

Turn off Your AC or Heater TODAY! Did you know that heating and air conditioning make-up an average 40% of the energy used in your home? That energy is made in power plants that give off air pollution. Turn Off Your AC or Heater TODAY! It will save you money & help the environment. Be conscious of your usage all through September!

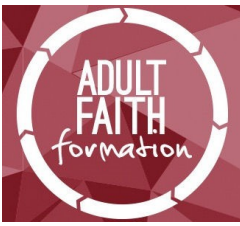
Alexandra Sullivan invites you to help clean-up & save the sea turtles! Sea Turtle Street Sweep (Trash Clean-up) Sept. 26th @ 12pm at Grace Lutheran Church. No Sign-up necessary!

Have you ever wondered what you can do for the environment? The Sea Turtle Street Sweep is an easy way to help the environment and it only takes one day! The Sea Turtle Street Sweep be on September 26th, and we will be cleaning up some areas in Royersford. We will start gathering at 12pm at the main doors of Grace on Main Street, then walk around Royersford together & clean-up some trash! This will help save some turtles (and other wildlife of course) from getting injured when the trash would wash out to sea. There will be no sign-up needed, anyone can help & all help is appreciated!



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

Check Out These Other Great Ways to Stay Connected



Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation—Adult faith formation will begin in person again on Sunday mornings this month. Judy Stryker and Richard Harshaw will continue where they left off with their Sunday morning classes. Please continue to read your Ledger for dates, times and locations.

Other Adult Faith Formation— *Conversation & Community (AKA Pub Theology)* continues to be on hiatus. If you are interested in participating & would like to have it start up again, please contact Deacon Allison at deaconallison12@gmail.com to let her know.



In addition, Deacon Allison would like to begin another in person book discussion group for when the numbers allow us to meet. Please contact her and let her know if you are interested and if so, when a good time will be for you.



Deacon Allison's Zoom Bible Study—Our study of the Gospel of John continues. We meet at 7:00 pm through Zoom on Monday evenings and at 10:00 am on Thursday mornings. Both groups will be studying the same material. We'd love to have you join us at one of these times! And if your schedule is fluid, you can join whichever group meets your weekly needs. Contact deaconallison12@gmail.com or the church office for a link.

2 Facebook Live Opportunities —Join Deacon Allison on **Thursdays at noon** for a deeper dive into one of the week's devotionals. Also, due to our service time changes, our Sunday morning Facebook Live time is changing as well. Join Pastor Kraiss or Deacon Allison for prayer time on **Sundays, also now at noon beginning August 29th.**



Morning Grace Daily Devotions. Check out the new site for Morning Grace Devotions at allisonwilcox.com. You can sign up there to receive devotions in your email box Mondays - Fridays.



New Noon Coffee Hour & Get Real Link Info.! 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! There is a new link we will use for Sunday Coffee Hour (Noon) and Get Real going forward. Please check your email for the details and new link or call Angela Feist or the church office at 610-948-3684 for the new link or more info.



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

Website: www.gracelutheranroyersford.com

Email: gracelutrn@verizon.net

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

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

Facebook search: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Grace's Roof Project:

Please join us for a special congregational meeting to approve the replacement of our Sanctuary, Welcome Center and Education Building roofs. Your participation is very important at this brief meeting, as a quorum is needed to approve this project. It will be held **Sun., Sept. 26th at 11:30am, in the sanctuary (following the 10:30 am service). You may attend in person, or via zoom using the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7618212325> (Meeting ID: 761 821 2325)**



Why do we need new roofs now? These roofs, with the exception of the Welcome Center which “bridges” the other two, are over 35 years old. We were aware that they would need to be replaced soon, but recent, closer inspection reveals issues that might not withstand much additional harsh weather. We certainly want to prevent damage to our buildings due to potential leaks. Rising costs of building materials also makes it financially prudent for us to act now.

After receiving multiple bids, we would like to proceed as soon as possible with a contract with a local, reputable company to replace the roofs for \$85,000. Our funding plan is to use a combination of available sources: a \$15,000 undesignated gift, \$8,270 of our stained glass window repair balance, and saved monies from Grace's Building Fund and our General Fund. We will ask approval for \$90,000- \$100,000 for this project to cover the projected cost and any contingencies.

Your help is needed! We hope to secure additional funds through congregational support above and beyond your regular giving. We do not want to deplete the funds mentioned above, as there are several long term issues we will be undertaking in the years ahead. Please prayerfully consider a supplementary gift that you can make at this time, to keep our 120 year old sanctuary from falling in to disrepair.

For those of you who may be subject to Required Minimum Distributions from your IRAs or other qualified plans you may want to consider using a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) to make a contribution. Using a QCD allows the funds to go directly to a charity, can help to satisfy your RMD, may not be taxable to you or add to your taxable income for the year the QCD is made. Check with your tax advisor and contact your financial institution for information on how to do so.

As time is of the essence, we ask you to return your roof project contribution in the enclosed envelope to the church office in the next few weeks. Please memo your check with: Grace Roof Fund.

Thank you for your generous and faithful support for the care of our beautiful buildings.



Important Message for all groups, troops & ministries starting up again on campus

We are still in ever evolving days when it comes to requests & recommendations relating to how best to react to Covid-19 and its variants. Currently, the CDC and local guidelines, along with the ELCA Synod are strongly recommending that all indoor meeting participants, whether vaccinated or not, wear a mask while inside. We are also suggesting that you do your best to social distance, as much as possible, in your respective indoor spaces. Let's do everything we can to care for one another; mask up and social distance while indoors. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the church office.

