



November 2021

Graceful Greetings



NOVEMBER 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., November 7—All Saints' Sunday
Sun., November 14—25th Sunday after Pentecost
Sun., November 21—Christ the King Sunday
Sun., November 28—First Sunday of Advent

Worship at Grace: Here's what Sunday mornings look like at Grace:

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) Every other Sunday. Confirmation classes will run from 9:15-10:15 every Sunday. Check out the details in 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!

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 local guidelines for masks and other recommendations. Currently, we are asking for all worshipers to wear a mask for their protection and the protection of children who are not eligible for vaccinations. (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: One year ago, we were all trying to figure out what the upcoming holiday season was going to look like. The pandemic was forcing us to rethink how we celebrated these special days that brought so much meaning to our lives. *Who can join us at the Thanksgiving table? Will it still feel like Christmas if we can't gather in the sanctuary? When will things be normal?*



The holidays *were* different last year- in our homes and in our church. As we enter into this season a whole year later, we are very aware that not everything has returned to a pre-pandemic state. This feels disappointing in many ways – we crave the comfort of things returning to the way they were. It's ok to grieve the losses of things that still aren't the same. But, this year we have the opportunity to make some healthy and powerful changes, because the pandemic really did help many of us to gain clarity of our priorities.

How can these newly-realized priorities guide our holidays this year? What are the things that honestly need to be discarded? (You know- the stuff that just causes stress and unnecessary work...) What are the new traditions we need to create that reflect what's truly important? I invite you to have those conversations with your family (including your church family!) and let your faith in the Christ who transforms hearts and lives lead you in your holiday planning this year.



From the Deacon's Desk: Thank you!

"Gratitude is...more than just an emotion. It is also a disposition that can be chosen and cultivated, an outlook toward life that manifests itself in actions—it is an ethic." ~ **Diana Butler Bass, *Grateful: The Transformative Power of Giving Thanks***

As we enter into the month of Thanksgiving, I am reminded of this quote from a religious scholar and author that I truly admire. Being thankful is more than just a state of being. It is something that we actually get to choose to do. We make a choice to be grateful.

And so I choose to be grateful now: I am grateful to community of Grace Lutheran Church at 6th and Main. I am grateful for its membership – new both new and old: those who worship in person, those who worship online, and those who worship from wherever they are or however they are able. I am grateful to its council and staff for all the hard work they consistently provide. I am grateful to my Bible Study groups who make studying the Bible fun! I am grateful to those who take the time to read my morning devotions. I am grateful to all the volunteers who show up to make the community of Grace AND of Royersford a wonderful place to be. I am grateful for our musicians and other Sunday morning worship helpers: ushers, tech, readers, counters.

I am grateful for YOU!

Advent is Coming! Join us this year for our Advent Worship theme, The Inn: Housing the Holy. Just as the light of the Star of Bethlehem shone on an unlikely house for the holy – a stable, how might the Light of Christ be shining on Grace Lutheran Church, inviting us to become a beacon of hope for the world? Come worship each week as we light the Advent wreath and ask God to open the doors to our hearts to:



HOPE (Making Room- Nov 28th), PEACE (A Place at the Table – Dec 5th), JOY (How Much is Enough? – Dec 12), and LOVE (A Room with a View – Dec 19th)

YOUTH NEWS



Join us for G.R.A.C.E. Place from 9:30am – 10:15am,
November 3rd and November 14th.

November 3rd is G.R.A.C.E. Place for individual classes: kindergarten and under, 1st – 2nd & 3rd – 6th graders. November 14th will be large group G.R.A.C.E. Place with Kelsey, learning faith through life size board games!

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 – 6th grade will meet by the welcome center on the parking lot side.

All classes will meet outside for fall & will socially distance. As it gets colder, we will move inside with social distancing and masking.

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

Christmas Pageant! Calling Friends and Family of all ages! We want to invite you to be a part of sharing the story of Jesus's birth through the Christmas Pageant! The cast sign-up will be out November 7th and due by the 21st. Cast list will be out the 23rd of November. *Our pageant will be virtual again this year, so a lot of practices will be done at home.* Sunday, December 19th at Grace will be recording day for speaking and non-speaking parts alike! Our pageant will be presented on Christmas Eve before each of our services & shared on social media on Christmas Day! Please email Kelsey with any questions.



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



Important Message for all groups, troops & ministries meeting on campus. The CDC & local guidelines, along with the ELCA Synod are strongly recommending that all indoor meeting participants, whether vaccinated or not, wear a mask 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 & social distance while indoors. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

Check Out These Other Great Ways to Stay Connected



Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation—Some of our adult faith formation has started up in person! Richard Harshaw leads a group for fellowship & discussion on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am; they meet in the choir room. Judy Stryker's book discussion group will begin when COVID numbers go down & we can begin to meet without masks again. Stay tuned & continue to check your Ledger for a start date. (and please remember that masks are required in the building now for all gatherings).

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



In addition, if you're interested in restarting, taking part in or leading a new gathering of the Mother's group that met on Sunday mornings with Jan Slack, please contact Deacon Allison. Volunteers are needed to help facilitate, and Deacon Allison will help you get started!



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. And join either Pastor Kraiss or Deacon Allison for prayer time on **Sundays. Times will fluctuate** based on what is happening with our in-person Sunday morning schedule.



Morning Grace Daily Devotions. You can find our Morning Grace Devotions at allisonwilcox.com. Sign up there to receive devotions in your email box Mondays through 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! Please 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)



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Blessed to be a Blessing Sunday on Oct 17th. We recounted the many blessings (lavish love!) that Grace shared during this past year- wow- there were so many! And we encouraged you to return a pledge card to estimate your giving to support the ministries of Grace in 2022. So far, we have received \$225,000 in pledges towards the \$350,000 needed to balance the anticipated budget for next year. We are prayerful that we will receive additional pledges of financial support, or budget cuts will be necessary. Please consider how YOU would like to help Grace continue to grow! Pledges may still be turned in to the office; if you need a pledge card, please call and we will mail you one. Thank you for your prayerful support!!

In recognition of Blessed to be a Blessing Sunday, we're filling 10 Thanksgiving food bags for Open Door. In conjunction, we are sponsoring a food drive on Oct. 24 & 31 and Nov. 7 & 14. We will provide a Giant gift card for the turkey & hope to supply the side dishes for a full Thanksgiving meal, through our food drive.

THANKSGIVING
FOOD DRIVE



We are asking for these specific items: Instant mashed potatoes, jar gravy, canned sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, corn, green beans, apple sauce, stuffing mix, pumpkin pie mix, evaporated milk. **Items will be collected at the table at the 6th Ave. entrance on Sundays and can be dropped off during the week at the church office, from 9am-2pm.**

Thank you for your generosity.



All Saints' Day will be commemorated on Sunday, November 7th at the 8:15 & 10:30 am worship services. Please join us for worship, prayer and the naming of all saints, including those especially beloved to us. If you will be worshiping with us online, you may wish to light a candle to remember & honor your own loved ones. **Last day to get your remembrances into the office is Nov. 1st.**

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD

The bell choir at Grace is being revived for the Advent season. If you have a desire to join us, please let us know. It will not be a long-term commitment. There will be about six rehearsals, one night a week, leading up to our Christmas Eve service. Musical ability is helpful, but mostly you just need to be able to count! The songs will be simple and a great way to share your gifts & praise the Lord! Please contact Joyce Berner or Jackie Perry, or you may contact the church office at 610-948-3684 or gracelutrn@verizon.net, if you are interested.



Please join us on Sunday, November 28th to celebrate Phyllis Conroy's 20th anniversary of service at Grace! We will give thanks for Phyllis's work (past, present and future!) as our extraordinary office administrator! Watch for details and come celebrate!!!

NOVEMBER Prayer Focus



- 1: Special people (All Saint's Day)
- 2: Look for Circles' Day
- 3: Homemakers (National Homemaker Day)
- 4: Caregivers (National Caregiver's Appreciation Month)
- 5: Football players (American Football Day)
- 6: Saxophone players (National Saxophone Day)
- 7: Those suffering from diabetes (Diabetes Month)
- 8: Great Chefs (Cook Something Bold Day)
- 9: The safety of our children (National Child Safety Council founded 1955)
- 10: All Marines (US Marine Corps Birthday)
- 11: Veterans (Veteran's Day)
- 12: Variety of food available (National Pizza with the Works Except Anchovies Day)
- 13: Kindness (World Kindness Day)
- 14: All nurses (Operating Nurse Week)
- 15: American Educators (American Education Week)
- 16: Things that give us comfort {National Teddy Bear Day)
- 17: Peace (World Peace Day)
- 18: Those suffering from lung cancer (Lung Cancer Awareness Week)
- 19: Those dying in wars (Abraham Lincoln delivers the Gettysburg Address)
- 20: Children of all ages (Universal Children's Day)
- 21: Personal communication (World Hello Day)
- 22: All Native Americans (Native American Heritage Month)
- 23: America (What Do You Love About America Day)
- 24: Family time together
- 25: All of our blessings this year (Thanksgiving Day)
- 26: All those afflicted with Alzheimer's (Alzheimer's Disease Month)
- 27: Wise spending (Black Friday)
- 28: Easy Nutrition (French Toast Day)
- 29: Our Grace family (Family Week)
- 30: Safety with computers (Computer Security Day)

Our Prayer List Coordinator—Becky Leonard is our Prayer List Coordinator. Becky is a wonderful addition to our volunteers, who help keep our church family connected & 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.



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

**DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER 2021
ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS
IS Monday, November 15th**

Visit us on the web at www.gracelutheranroyersford.com
 Email: GraceLutrn@verizon.net Church Office: 610.948.3684 Fax: 610.948.3304