



December 2021

Graceful Greetings



DECEMBER 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., December 5—Second Sunday of Advent
Sun., December 12—Third Sunday of Advent
Sun., December 19—Fourth Sunday of Advent
Fri., December 24—Christmas Eve: 7PM & 11PM
Sun., December 26—First Sunday of Christmas



Join us for Advent and Christmas worship!!!



This **Advent** we will explore how our hearts and our church can be a place to house our Lord with the theme *The Inn: Housing the Holy*. Come light the Advent candles and prepare your hearts!

Nov 28: HOPE: Making Room

Dec 5: PEACE: A Place at the Table

Dec 12: JOY: How Much is Enough?

Dec 19: LOVE: A Room with a View

There will be two in-person **Christmas Eve services** on December 24th!
7 pm Worship: Kelsey will offer a special message for the children! Music will be led by the Spirit of Grace praise band. Come early at 6:15 or remain after worship to see the video of our children's Christmas pageant- it will be shown at both times!!

11 pm Worship: The bell choir will offer special musical selections. Outdoor caroling on the front lawn of the church will begin at 10:30 pm and is open to all! Or, come early to watch the video of the children's Christmas pageant at 10:15. This service will be livestreamed to the youtube channel: [gracelutheranroyersford](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgraceLutheranRoyersford).

Holy Communion will be offered at both services. Come worship the newborn King!



The **Children's Christmas Pageant**, created with joy and love, will also be available to view on the worship page of our website (www.GraceLutheranRoyersford.com) on Christmas Day! Join the angelic choir and maybe even dance with a cow or two, as Grace's children tell the story of the birth of Jesus. Make this Good News a part of your Christmas Day for the whole family!

Pastor's Points: Who knew that 1-800-GOT-JUNK? was theological? Well, maybe not intentionally, but I just heard their commercial claiming that "You are what you cling to". (This is a pretty decent paraphrase of Matthew 6:21, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.") So, what does that mean for us at Christmas?



Consider, this year, the time spent in baking, decorating, manipulating the "elf on the shelf" and getting ready for Santa. Compare that to the time spent in worship, prayer, devotions, and acts of kindness towards others. (You know, the stuff Jesus did and taught us.) Consider the money spent on things not really needed, compared to the money given to those who are desperate. Consider the stress and anxiety over "getting it all done", compared to the peace being offered in the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. To what or to whom will you cling this Christmas? Blessings to you in the seasons of Advent and Christmas – may our Lord fill your heart.



From the Deacon's Desk: Happy Holidays!

It is difficult to believe that this is our second Christmas of pandemic. Christmas – a holy, beautiful season – can already be fraught with stress for many reasons. Physical or mental illness, economic insecurity, or loneliness are just a few. But maybe there is another one that tugs at you this time of year: the worries about just what you are supposed to say to that passing stranger or store clerk this time of year. What happens if I say "Happy Holidays" instead of Merry Christmas, or if someone says that to me? Does that mean there is a "war" on Christmas? I will admit to you that at least half of the time, I say "Happy Holidays" (unless I am in a situation where I know everyone I'm with celebrates Christmas). Did you know that between November 1st and January 15th there are 29 holidays celebrated by seven of the world's major religions? Christmas isn't the only one, and I can't safely assume that my store clerk or that passing stranger celebrates the same one I do. Saying Happy Holidays doesn't lessen the importance of Christmas, it just says that whatever holiday you are celebrating, I hope it is a great one (Not to mention that the word, "holiday" comes from "holy-day"). For people called to "love our neighbors," wishing them well this time of year by saying Happy Holidays seems an easy way to do it.

There's a lot to be stressed about during this season, especially as we still have the specter of COVID looming. Let's take one thing off the table stress wise!

I wish you all Happy Holidays AND a very Merry Christmas!

Poinsettia's Orders for Christmas -- \$10 each for 6" pot with 4-7 blooms.

Pick up **AFTER** late service on Christmas Eve. **Deadline for orders is 12/10/21.** Please include payment (memo checks for "Poinsettias" with your order & mail to the church office or drop in the offering plate). Look for forms at church, include the following info with your mailed in order or call the church office to place your order:



Your Name,
Number of plants you want,
Total (# of plants times \$10) and
In Memory or Honor of notation(s).

YOUTH NEWS

Join us for G.R.A.C.E. Place from 9:30am – 10:15am, December 5th & 19th.

December 5th is G.R.A.C.E. Place for individual classes: kindergarten and under, 1st – 2nd & 3rd – 6th graders. December 19th 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 in the social hall.

1st – 2nd grade will meet in the welcome center and head to LO9 after everyone arrives.

3rd – 6th grade will meet and stay in the welcome center..

All classes are back inside. We ask that you wear a mask and stay socially distanced.

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! *Our pageant will be virtual again this year.* 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

ELCA Good Gifts on sale beginning December 5!

Make a difference! Shop ELCA Good Gifts for 50 gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts, starting at just \$10, provide direct support for the church-wide ministries of the ELCA. Give in honor of a special someone.

In-person Good Gift sales can be made immediately after the early church service until the start of the late service. Payment can be in the form of cash or personal check. (Checks should be made out to **Grace Lutheran Church**. The memo line should read **Advent – ELCA Good Gifts**)

You can also purchase ELCA Good Gifts through Grace by mailing a personal check to the church office. Just let us know what gift(s) you are purchasing. If you want to order directly through the ELCA, that works too! Go to: goodgifts.elca.org. Let us know if you order directly through the ELCA so we can track Grace's generosity.



Check Out These Other Great Ways to Stay Connected



Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation—Richard Harshaw is leading a group for fellowship and discussion on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. You can find Richard in the choir room. Judy Stryker's book discussion group will begin when COVID numbers go down and we can begin to meet without masks again. Stay tuned and 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.



If you are 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 are studying the same material. Anyone is welcome to join us at any time. 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.



Facebook Live Opportunity —Join either Pastor Kraus or Deacon Allison for prayer time on **Sundays**. **Times will fluctuate** based on what is happening with our in-person Sunday morning schedule. The regular Thursday Facebook Live has ended, but Deacon Allison will occasionally host one at various times. Check the Facebook page for updates.



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)

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. This service is immediately in need of volunteers who will click through a power point for the service; 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 & Sacrament, is less formal. Spirit-filled music by Spirit of Grace praise band, children's sermon by Kelsey & Communion. This service will be livestreamed to our Youtube channel at GraceLutheranRoyersford and is always recorded & 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.



Thank you, Grace community for your generous spirit this Thanksgiving season. 21 bags of food & 12 Giant gift certificates were delivered to Open Door.

**To the congregation at Grace –
THANK YOU for your generosity with both Unity Day &
the Southeastern Veterans Center.**



On Unity Day, the community packed 100 tote bags that were donated to Golden Age Manor. You donated many items that helped fill the tote bags for our neighbors and gave us the opportunity to engage with the community. While the packing was taking place during Unity Day, several adults expressed how they were happy we were doing this. Because of your generosity, we also had some extra items to start gifts for the Southeastern Veterans Center.

You were again, generous in sharing your time and treasure to support the gifts for our veterans. You packed 60 tote bags for the VA Center. In the conversation with the volunteer coordinator, she said that coloring books have a calming effect on the gentlemen. When the tote bags were delivered, we also had several boxes of surplus items for the coordinator to keep on hand such as jigsaw puzzles, magnifiers, socks, etc. She gasped when she saw everything, and she now can fill her empty shelves. She shared that these bags would make a positive impact on the veterans. A good percentage of them never have anyone come visit them.

Your prayers, donations and time are GREATLY appreciated. This congregation made a difference for the residents of Golden Age Manor & Southeastern Veterans Center; we are truly grateful for you and the opportunity to share God's love. Thank you, so much! Diane Harshaw & Angela Feist

- 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.



**DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY 2022
ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS
IS Wednesday, December 15th**

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