

August 2022

## Graceful Greetings



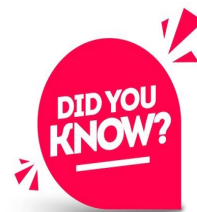
### AUGUST 2022 WORSHIP SERVICES

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., August 7—Ninth Sunday in Pentecost  
Sun., August 14—Tenth Sunday in Pentecost  
Sun., August 21—Eleventh Sunday in Pentecost  
Sun., August 28—Twelfth Sunday in Pentecost

**Did you know that Montgomery County is experiencing a crisis of homelessness and a lack of affordable housing?** Here's a few statistics (from Montgomery County): In January of 2021, 568 people were identified as homeless. Between 2021-2022, homelessness rose by at least 118%. 50% of the clients of the only year round emergency shelter for single adults are over 55 years old. That year round shelter lost it's lease on June 30, 2022, and is now struggling to serve the clients that relied upon them for help.



What can Grace do? The Grace council is currently exploring options for our rental unit above the office, which will soon be undergoing some very needed updating. If you are interested in being part of discussions & plans to minister to someone in need of affordable housing in our neighborhood, please see Pastor Kraus, council president Jack Claypotch, or any member of council.

*Jesus said, "... You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:39*



We would like to thank the congregation for the Project Outreach donations. Once again, Grace's congregation out did themselves with their generosity!! Because of you, Project Outreach has been able to stock up their shelves for some less fortunate members of our community, by donating over 30 bottles of hand sanitizer, dish detergent, razors, tissues, etc. Thank you for supporting this ministry in doing God's work.

### Fellowship July Events

We'll be meeting to enjoy the free carillon concerts, at the Washington Memorial National Carillon Concerts at Valley Forge National Park, on Route 23. Concerts are free & open to the public, every Wednesday in August, rain or shine. starting at 7:30pm. Bring your lawn chair, blankets, snacks, dinner. The Chapel Cabin Shop will be open for refreshments. Grace members will meet on the lawn at the chapel on Wed., Aug 24 (the carillonneur is from Maryland), plan on being there by 7pm. Then our church picnic at Victory Park on Sun., Aug 28. More details to follow.

Victory Park is also hosting Summer Concerts on Thursday & Sunday evenings.



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**Pastor's Points:** This past week in a very joyful, full-of-life VBS, the kids were asked to name their "God sightings". And they did. Actually, they filled the cross in the front left corner of the sanctuary with vibrant flowers naming the ways they saw God. Four year olds... fourteen year olds... they were all able to see how God was working around them – helping them to make new friends, learn new great things about God, have fun dancing and singing about our Awesome God, and so much more!



I admit, those were all God sightings for me too. And here's another – the incredible group of volunteers who poured a ton of time, energy, and love into VBS! They made the week a blast for a wonderful group of kids and they shined God's love over and over. Thank you Kelsey Tomlinson, Julie Buckwalter, and all of the VBS volunteers who helped us see God!!!!

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**Thank you to our worship volunteers!!!** Every week, people are busy running tech, reading, singing & playing instruments, being an usher or trustee or reader, delighting little ones (and big ones!) with children's sermons, preparing the altar and worship space, serving communion, and more! *Did you know that more help is needed?* Most of these opportunities have flexibility and they are easy to do! What can you do to help create an inspiring worship service? (Ask Pastor Kraiss – she can gladly help you figure that out!)

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***From the Deacon's Desk: So big and yet right here***

This week that I am writing, something wonderful happened in the news. In the midst of stories of gun violence, economic crises, seditious conspiracy, extreme weather, and a new variant of COVID, came images from the James Webb telescope. These weren't just any images; these were pictures from the furthest reaches (and time) of our universe. And they were gloriously beautiful.

When I looked at the first images that came through, I couldn't help but be reminded of the immensity of God and the creativity and wonder of God's handiwork. I can't help but see God in these amazing pictures. This is God at the most magnificent.

But God was in small places this week as well: among kids and adults at VBS; in babies being born; in folks gathered in mourning for the passing of their loved one; in discussions of scripture; and in all the everyday ways we love our neighbors as ourselves. God is still at work in both big ways and small ways. God is present in majesty and in humility. Where are you seeing God at work right now?

God's peace to you!

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**Our Prayer List Coordinator is Becky Leonard.** 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](mailto: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.



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## YOUTH NEWS

**Church Picnic will be August 28<sup>th</sup> at Victory Park!** Mark your calendars for outdoor worship and picnic afterwards!



**Join us for a summer “Celebrate your faith night”** with the Reading Fightin’ Phils, on **Thursday, 8/4 at 7pm.** Contact David Fritz by 7/31 for tickets & more info.

You should have or be receiving via snail mail and email, information about our fall programming! You can also find it on our website: <https://www.gracelutheranroyersford.com/fall-Sunday-program/>

**This fall we would appreciate more parent volunteers to help lead classes!**  
**Please be prayerful about this opportunity and email Kelsey if you’d like to volunteer.**



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



**It's Time for a Church Picnic!!!!** Join Grace and other local churches at Victory Park on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>! We will worship together outdoors around 11am and then enjoy a picnic! Details on food will be coming soon. **Children are invited to bring their school backpacks for a blessing.** If you’d like to help with this GREAT fellowship event, please see Brenda Johnson- lots of hands makes the work light! (Grace will continue to have an 8:15 indoor worship in the sanctuary that day.)

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**Fellowship Zoom Gathering**—Please join me on **Thur., August 18 at 7pm** for our “3rd Thurs Fellowship Zoom”. We have a topic or theme to organize our discussion/sharing each month. I pray that you find some fellowship each week and remember that at Grace, we are here for each other, you just need to reach out. Contact myself or the church office to receive an email with Fellowship Zoom link.  
Peace, Brenda Johnson



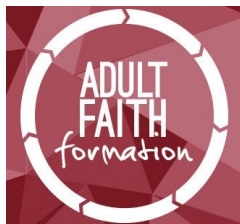
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**DO  
YOUR  
PART.**

**Be a Part/Do your Part!** There are so many ways to be a part and do your part during worship at Grace, from being a trustee to a techie, from altar guild to assisting with communion, from choir to counting, teaching, reading, gardening, children’s sermons & ushering. There’s a way everyone can be a part and do their part. Worship works best when everyone works together! Call the church office at 610-948-3684 to find out more about how you can be a part and do your part!

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## Check Out These Other Great Ways to Stay Connected



### *Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation & Fellowship*

Richard Harshaw's group is taking a break for the summer.

"The Wired Word," conversations on faith and life, continues at 9:15 am in the parlor and will continue through August 21st.

Judy Stryker's book discussion group will begin again in September.

Plans are underway to resume the mother's bible study group on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in joining, see either Sue Ibach, Karen Thomson, or Deacon Allison. Indicate whether you prefer to meet in person or by Zoom.

If you have an idea about an adult group you'd like to see, please let Deacon Allison know.

**Our study of the Gospel of Luke continues.** The Thursday morning Bible Study group will be taking the rest of the summer off. But you can still join us via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Monday evenings. Anyone is welcome to join us at any time. Contact [deaconallison12@gmail.com](mailto:deaconallison12@gmail.com) or the church office for a link.



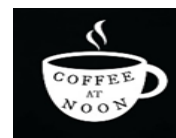
**Facebook Live Opportunity** —Join either Pastor Kraiss or Deacon Allison for prayer time on Sundays. Times will fluctuate based on what is happening with our in-person Sunday morning schedule. The Thursday Facebook Live has ended, but Deacon Allison will occasionally host one at various times. Check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

**Morning Grace Daily Devotions.** You can find our Morning Grace Devotions at [allisonwilcox.com](http://allisonwilcox.com). Sign up there to receive devotions in your email box Mondays through Fridays.

**New Members:** If you are interested in learning more about membership at Grace, contact Deacon Allison at [deaconallison12@gmail.com](mailto:deaconallison12@gmail.com). A membership information class will be happening again soon.



**Noon Coffee Hour & Get Real Link Info.!** Miss 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](http://www.gracelutheranroyersford.com)

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



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**DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2022  
ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS  
IS Monday, August 15th**

Visit us on the web at [www.gracelutheranroyersford.com](http://www.gracelutheranroyersford.com)  
 Email: [GraceLutr@verizon.net](mailto:GraceLutr@verizon.net) Church Office: 610.948.3684 Fax: 610.948.3304