

December 2022
Graceful Greetings



DECEMBER 2022 WORSHIP SERVICES



The beautiful, hope-filled season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 27.

Join us in worship for Advent 2022:
The Coming of the LIGHT!

Nov 27: The Light as Promise

Dec 4: The Light as Purifier

Dec 11: The Light as Presence

Dec 18: (One service 10am) Children's Christmas Pageant!

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve (Services at 7 & 11pm)

Dec. 25: Christmas (One service at 10am)

**Join us on Christmas Eve on Saturday, December 24th,
to celebrate the birth of Jesus – the Light of All Possibility!**

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 6:45 to carol together in the sanctuary!

11 pm Worship: Music will be led by the chancel choir and bell choir. Caroling in the sanctuary will begin at 10:45pm – come join us! This service will be livestreamed at the [gracelutheranroyersford](#) youtube channel. Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services. Both will be candlelight services.



Christmas Day worship will be on Sunday, December 25th at 10 am! Come and worship our newborn king!!! This service will be livestreamed at the [gracelutheranroyersford](#) youtube channel.



• Advent at Grace – Hunger impacts everything.

During Advent, bless someone with the gift of a meal! Participate in our fundraising event on the Sundays in Advent, by purchasing meals for people in need, globally. Our Advent tree will start off bare. As people purchase various quantities of meals, a star will be hung on the tree. Help decorate our tree by participating! The stars represent specific numbers of meals purchased. Our “star” denominations are: feed 1 person/1 day = \$1; feed 5 people/1 day = \$5; feed 2 people/1 week = \$15; feed 1 person/1 month = \$35; feed 7 people/1 week = \$50. Or, consider just making a donation. The money raised will be used toward the Rise Against Hunger food packing event on April 29...stay tuned for details. Cash or checks accepted. If paying by check, make the check out to Grace Lutheran Church. The memo line *must read* RAH or Rise Against Hunger.

Pastor's Points: I've always loved the lights of Christmas... they manage to say so many things about this season. Tiny white twinkle lights softly settle peace onto my heart. Blinking multi-colored lights fill me with joy and excited anticipation. My bright star-shaped tree topper is a reminder of the starry hope communicated to the wise men making their way to Bethlehem on a journey of faith. My favorite though is the light in my antique manger gently illuminating the small figurines in the stable – Mary and Joseph, seemingly praying over the newborn baby... the 3 wisemen slowly moving in and out of the stable, bearing gifts for the Christ child. It is a scene lit by a little bulb and a whole lot of love.



No matter what your heart needs this Christmas – peace, joy, or hope, I pray that it is also abundantly filled with love. May the birth of the Christ child assure you of God's extravagant love for you, and may this love overflow to those around you.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. John 1:9



From the Deacon's Desk: Advent Journey

First things first...I am so very grateful to all who were involved in the lovely appreciation day for the staff on November 13th. Know that you are appreciated so very much as well!

I think of this appreciation as we move into Advent: both the liturgical season of Advent, as well as the advent of new things here at Grace. Pastor Kraiss' retirement is something I am both excited about for her, as well as sad about for me - working with her has been a deacon's dream. I appreciate her leadership and all I have learned from her. But as she gets ready for the advent of new things in her own life, it is time for us at Grace to look ahead to the advent of a new way of being as well. I can promise that as we look ahead, I will be fully engaged, eager to work with you all, as well as a bridge or interim we will have. And I look forward to what ministry here at Grace will be under a new Senior Pastor in the future.

As we enter the liturgical season of Advent, know that that the coming of the One who saves will guide us as we move into the advent of new beginnings at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Our Prayer List Coordinator is Becky Leonard. Becky helps keep our church family connected & growing, through her willingness to take your prayer requests. Please contact Becky or send any prayer requests to her 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.



YOUTH NEWS

On December 4th we will have G.R.A.C.E. Place for 2 year olds – 6th graders, from 9:30-10:15am!



December 18: (One service 10am) Children's Christmas Pageant

Rehearsal Schedule: Sun., Dec. 4th—All speaking parts: APR—11:30am-12:30pm
Sun., Dec. 11th—Dress rehearsal - All Parts: Sanctuary—11:30am-1pm
Pageant Day: Speaking Parts arrive at 9am to All Purpose Room
Non-Speaking Parts arrive at 9:30am to All Purpose Room



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



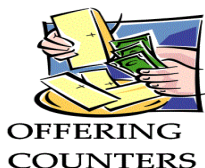
Fellowship Zoom Gathering—Please join me on **Thur., December 15 at 7pm** for our "3rd Thursday Fellowship Zoom". We have a topic or theme to organize discussion/sharing each month. I pray that you find some fellowship each week and remember that at Grace, we are here for each other, you just need to reach out. Contact myself or the church office to receive an email with Fellowship Zoom link.
Peace, Brenda Johnson

LIVE NATIVITY!! Come enjoy caroling around a live nativity on **Sunday, December 18 in Victory Park from 1-4 pm.** You'll see the Christmas story unfold in the midst of the animals and characters. (The story will be told 3 times – join us at 1, 2, or 3 pm!) Characters are still needed! Please see Pastor Kraiss if you would like to help!



It's time to get ready!! Can you help? Volunteers are needed to help with fall leaf clean up & setting up the Nativity Set. **We'll meet Sat., December 3rd, 8am-noon.** Bring rakes & gloves if you have them. Questions - contact Steve Matzke.

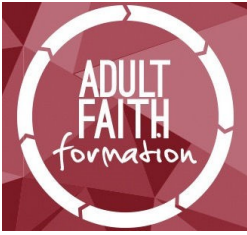
We are looking for volunteers to open & close the church (lights & locks) on Sunday mornings. They serve for one month out of the year only. Please contact Pastor Kraiss if you are able to serve one month.



We are looking for volunteers to help count the offerings on Sundays. The commitment will be no more than once every 6 weeks. Training will be offered. A degree in mathematics not required. Please contact Kurt Meyers or the church office if interested in helping.

Check Out These Other Great Ways to Stay Connected

Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation & Fellowship



- Richard Harshaw's "What's on your heart & mind", discussion group meets at 9:15, in the choir room.
- Judy Stryker's book discussion group meets in the parlor. They will be reading the book, *"What if Jesus was Serious About the Church?"*, by Skye Jethani.
- 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 is nearing the end. We are almost finished with Luke, but it is never too late to join in the conversation! One group meets via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Monday evenings. Our other group meets in person on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am in the All-purpose room. For those who still prefer to meet via Zoom, you can still do that.



Both groups study the same material. Anyone is welcome to join us at any time. Contact deaconallison12@gmail.com or the church office for a link. (and stay tuned for information about our next study on the Gospel of Matthew).



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. Sign up there to receive devotions in your email box Mondays through Fridays.

New Members: If you're interested in learning more about membership at Grace, contact Deacon Allison at deaconallison12@gmail.com. A membership information class will happen again soon.

Grief Lectionary: In the new year, Deacon Allison will be leading a 6-week course called "The Grief Lectionary." This small group study is meant to be a companion for grieving people of faith, using the Bible as a guide. Each study uses a scripture story & joins it to a part of the grief journey, loosely correlated with the 6 stages of grief. If you are interested in learning more about this series or taking part in it, contact Deacon Allison or Pastor Kraiss. We are happy to help you discern if this is right for you.



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

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)

-

**DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY 2023
ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS
IS Thursday, December 15th**