

January 2023  
Graceful Greetings



**JANUARY 2023 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., January 1, First Sunday of Christmas  
Sun., January 8, Baptism of Our Lord  
Sun., January 15, Second Sunday of Epiphany  
Sun., January 22, Third Sunday of Epiphany  
Sun., January 29, Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

**Please join us for our Annual Meeting!** It will be held on Sunday, February 5th after a 10 am worship service. (One service that day AND it will be Church Music Sunday!) You will also be able to join us via zoom. (Link will be sent via email in advance with Annual Reports.) Your input is important as we discuss ministries, mission & vision, budgets and more. Reports will be sent via email on January 20th. If you do NOT have access to email and wish to receive a hard copy, you will need to notify the church office. Reserved copies may be picked up at the office after January 20th.



**Thank you to our wonderful, generous congregation;** through your awesome contributions we were able to Rise Against Hunger and decorate our Advent tree with a multitude of stars. We raised enough money for 6,518 meals!! If you still want to contribute, you can mail a check to the office or drop one in the offering plate; make sure it has RAH in the memo line. Thank you!!

**Are you a Thrivent client that has Choice Dollars available?** Don't forget! If you're an eligible Thrivent client and have Choice Dollars® available to direct, please keep our organization in mind. For more info or to direct Choice Dollars, call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice.” Or go to [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice)



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**Pastor's Points:** A new year always brings thoughts and dreams of new beginnings. That's true for individuals and for communities of faith! As Grace enters into 2023, you will be doing lots of discerning and dreaming & visioning about the mission of the congregation, and your hopes for a new pastor. While it is a time of goodbyes, it is also a very exciting time for exploring who God has called you to be in the past and who God is calling you to be in the future. You'll get to name the places you've seen God at work and think in new, creative, prayerful ways about how you think God might be leading you in the times ahead.



In the first stages of your pastoral transition, the synod will provide you with an interim pastor who is specially trained to be your pastor AND the professional who will help in your discernment. He or she will ask lots of questions, listen carefully to what is important to you and help you to weave those values into the future of Grace. What a blessing! Another huge blessing is the continued ministry of your staff, who will be serving God and the people of Grace in the same ways they've been faithfully doing. This includes Deacon Allison, who will not become your new pastor, but partnering with you as she always has been and serving primarily in the ministries of Adult Education, Faith Engagement and Worship.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with questions prior to my May 1st retirement. It's time to start dreaming of the new possibilities God has in store for you and Grace Lutheran Church! *"Behold, I am about to do something new ...!"* Isaiah 43:19



### ***From the Deacon's Desk: Where is Church?***

#### **Where is church for you?**

The word ekklesia (which is the word we get church from) referred to the followers of Jesus themselves - NOT a building or the place where they gathered. It's a good reminder for us as we begin the New Year as "church:" WE are the church. The building is not the church. That became clear for many of us during the height of COVID and restrictions, but it is no less true now. That means that church is everywhere that we are loving & serving God and neighbor.

So that can bring me back to the original question: Where is church for you?

For some, it is still gathering with loved ones as you watch the Livestream on Sunday morning. It is also when we show up at Project Outreach or a Rise Against Hunger Event. For some it is meeting for Bible Study or visiting the homebound. Or serving at a Synod mission site. Or going on a Mission retreat.

How can we at Grace become a church without walls in 2023? If you have any thoughts or ideas about new ways we can be church together, please let me know!

**Happy New Year!**

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**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](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



### January 1st – Happy New Years!

High School youth are invited to Grace at 9:30am for fellowship and donuts!  
All Youth are invited to join us for 10am worship in your PJ pants!

### January 16th: MLK Jr. Day of Service

Join us at Open Door in Royersford from 12-4pm to sort and organize clothes! If you are under 14 years old, a parent will need to join us for this service project.

**January 22nd: Parent Confirmation Meeting.** Optional parent meeting for parents of confirmation youth at 9:30am in the High School youth room (LO7) with Pastor Kraiss.

### January 29th: High School Service Project @9:30am at Grace!

High School youth are invited to lead a service project for our younger kids during G.R.A.C.E. Place hour!

### TUSCARORA! In-person retreat March 24th – 26th, 2023!

**Registration DUE Jan. 22nd.** 6th – 12th graders are invited to join us for Tuscarora weekend retreat. This year's theme is Justice, Love, & Humility. Registration paperwork can be found in the narthex of the church OR in the confirmation classroom. Registration includes paperwork, copies of insurance card, covid card (if you have one), and \$115 Registration fee.

### Box City: March 11th

Box City at St. James in Limerick is BACK! Join us in raising awareness and funds for those who experience homelessness. This is an overnight, sleep-out event for 6th-12th graders. Saturday, March 11th – Sunday, March 12th! Registration is due Jan. 29th and costs \$50.



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

**The Children's Christmas Pageant**, can be viewed on the worship tab, of our website, under archives ([www.GraceLutheranRoyersford.com](http://www.GraceLutheranRoyersford.com)). If you haven't already watched our young members bring the story of Christmas to life, why don't you check it out. It's a great way to ring in the New Year!



**Christmas Pageant**

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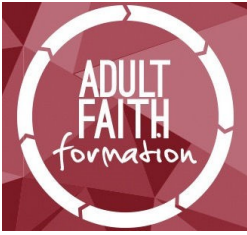


**Fellowship Zoom Gathering**—Please join me on **Thur., January 19th at 7pm** for our “3rd Thursday Fellowship Zoom”. We have a topic or theme to organize discussion/sharing each month. I pray that you find some fellowship each week and remember that at Grace, we are here for each other, you just need to reach out. Contact myself or the church office to receive an email with Fellowship Zoom link.  
Peace, Brenda Johnson

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## 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 will finish just as the New Year begins.** A new study of The Gospel of Matthew will begin the week of January 30th. 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](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're interested in learning more about membership at Grace, contact Deacon Allison at [deaconallison12@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.gracelutheranroyersford.com)

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

**Facebook search:** Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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

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

