

## February 2023

# Graceful Greetings



### FEBRUARY 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., February 5, Fifth Sunday of Epiphany  
Sun., February 12, Sixth Sunday of Epiphany  
Sun., February 19, Transfiguration Sunday  
Wed., February 22, Ash Wednesday  
Sun., February 26, First Sunday of Lent

**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 were 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.



**Join us on Ash Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>** to begin the season of Lent.

There are 2 opportunities:



11am in person worship in the Sanctuary. This will be an abbreviated service with the imposition of ashes & communion.

Also, worship will be held in person in the Sanctuary at 7pm. This will be a full worship service with the imposition of ashes & celebration of communion. For those worshipping online, you may use ashes from your own fireplace, or contact us to receive a container of ashes in advance. The online link for the evening service will be provided in an email, or you may contact the church office.

### More Good News at Grace!!!

Capital Improvements that we initiated in 2009 as part of our Grace Odyssey II project involved the Welcome Center, elevator, new windows, and several other upgrades to our campus. We borrowed more than 800,000 to complete these valuable items that have enhanced the experience at Grace, making every area in the sanctuary and Ed building accessible to all.

We are pleased to announce to the congregation, with gratitude toward your faithful giving, that the mortgage loan will be satisfied and paid in full by the middle of January, years ahead of schedule.

It is truly a cause for celebration!



**Pastor's Points:** In my last 3 monthly "Pastor's Points", I plan on saying "thank you". This month? Thanks for the laughter. There's been a lot of it! A visit to my office is testimony to the laughs – the stuffed sloths, the Pastor Kraus coca-cola bottle, framed cartoons, several humorous mugs, and the sticker of Jesus peering around a corner announcing, "I saw that".



In the midst of caring for one another, sharing the work of the gospel, and being the Church, we did the important work of finding (and sometimes creating) joy and taking the time to laugh together. I fully believe in a God who gave us the gift of laughter and joy to add that particular music to this wonderful creation. It is vital in our lives and yes, I believe it's vital in the church. It is spiritually healthy for us to laugh together often. It is good to be like the psalmist, who on noticing God's blessings said, "Then our mouths were filled with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy!" (Psalm 126:2) To that, I say, "Bwahahaha!" and "Amen!"



### ***From the Deacon's Desk: Journey through Lent***

As Lent approaches I wanted to let you know about two programs Grace will be offering starting in March. First, our yearly Lenten Study will begin on March 1<sup>st</sup> and will follow our Lenten theme of "Journeys" by focusing on the Holy Spirit's movement in our lives - and the journeys the Spirit moves us through. We'll be focusing on Henri Nouwen's Book, *Following the Movements of the Spirit*. You don't need to read the book, but if you'd like to, you can find it here: [https://www.amazon.com/Spiritual-Formation-Following-Movements-Spirit/dp/0061686131/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?crid=3PN3UTZVAJF3Q&keywords=Following+the+movements+of+the+spirit&qid=1673451672&qu=eyJxc2MiOiIxLjMxIiwicXNhIjojMS40MyIsInFzcCI6IjEuNDYifQ%3D%3D&prefix=following+the+movements+of+the+spirit%2Caps%2C112&sr=8-1](https://www.amazon.com/Spiritual-Formation-Following-Movements-Spirit/dp/0061686131/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3PN3UTZVAJF3Q&keywords=Following+the+movements+of+the+spirit&qid=1673451672&qu=eyJxc2MiOiIxLjMxIiwicXNhIjojMS40MyIsInFzcCI6IjEuNDYifQ%3D%3D&prefix=following+the+movements+of+the+spirit%2Caps%2C112&sr=8-1)

Also beginning in March, I'll be leading a small group through the "Grief Lectionary," a program that uses stories from scripture to guide participants through the stages of grief. The group will be able to offer support to each other as the sessions end.

You can find more information about both of these formation opportunities here in the newsletter. Or don't hesitate to ask me for more information as well. You can reach me through my email address: [deaconallison12@gmail.com](mailto:deaconallison12@gmail.com).

### **Feeling Chilled to the Bone? Need to see some Friendly Faces?**

### **Get out of the cold & warm up with a CHILI CONTEST & SOOTHING SOUP FUNDRAISER**

When: Sun., Feb. 19, 2023 following 10:30am service (about 11:15am)

Where: Meet in the parking lot to Celebrate Paying Off The Mortgage, then move to the Social Hall for the Chili Contest & Soothing Soup Fundraiser

Why: To enjoy each other's company & to raise \$ for Rise Against Hunger

#### **4 Ways You Can Participate:**

1. Make a pot of chili to enter in contest
2. Make a pot of soup to share
3. Come for lunch & make a free will donation to Rise Against Hunger
4. Be a chili contest judge



Don't let winter leave you out in the cold...come warm your soul & your belly at the Chili Contest & Soothing Soup Fundraiser. Any questions, contact Brenda Johnson, Fellowship chair 610 585-9824

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## YOUTH NEWS

**Family Lent Program:** Keep an eye out in your emails for weekly Lenten newsletters! During lent, we will be going through the stations of the cross. Each week, the newsletter will have a activities and discussion questions that correlate with a station or two of Jesus' journey to the grave. Journey with Grace and together as a family and dive into your faith and Jesus' sacrifice for us.



**Task a Staff/Coin Battle:** During Lent, we invite you to participate in tasking a staff member! Deacon Allison, Pastor Kraiss, and Kelsey each have a jar in the Narthex. During the upcoming months, you are invited to drop in coins, cash, and check (Grace Lutheran Church memo: Rise Against Hunger) into one (or all) of the jars. Each staff needs \$250 in their jar and then they will complete the task on their jar! All proceeds will go to Rise Against Hunger event! Pastor Kraiss will bake bread for communion on Sunday! Deacon Allison will join the band for a Sunday! Kelsey will dye her hair purple!

### **Tuscarora Retreat: March 24th – March 26th**

If you missed registration for Tuscarora but are still interested in attending, please see Kelsey!

**Box City: March 11th – 12th:** 6th – 12th graders are invited to join Grace at St. James Lutheran in Limerick for Box City Saturday, March 11th – Sunday, March 12th! It is an event to raise awareness & funds for those who experience homelessness. Please see Kelsey for details including registration.



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



**Fellowship Zoom Gathering**—Please join me on **Thur., February 16th 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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**Do you shop at Redner's and use your Rewards Card?** If you do, we'd love to have you share your register receipts with us to be able to participate in Redner's 1% Rebate Program.

Simply bring your receipts using your **Rewards Card** into church and deposit them into one of the boxes located on the announcement tables at either the Main Street or 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue entrances. Or, you can mail or delivery them to the church office next time you stop by.

A volunteer will tally and submit the receipts to Redner's for the rebate program. Proceeds from the rebate will be used for Grace's social ministry projects.



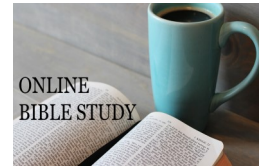
## Check Out These Other Great Ways to Stay Connected

### *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, let Deacon Allison know.

**Our study of the Gospel of Matthew began 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.

**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:** The 6-week course called "The Grief Lectionary" will begin in March. 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 particular scripture story and joins it to a part of the grief journey, loosely correlated with the stages of grief. We will meet on the following Sundays after the second service at 11:30am. Each session is about 75 minutes long so we will finish before 1:00pm. The dates for the sessions are: 3/12, 4/2, 4/16, 4/23, 5/7 & 5/21.



A sign-up sheet will be posted in the 6th Avenue entrance, or you can let Deacon Allison know if you plan on attending.



**Lenten Study: Journeys through Lent**—Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 22nd. This year, as we journey through Lent, on Sunday mornings we'll focus on different journeys in scripture, and for our Lenten Study we'll be using the book, "Following the Movements of the Spirit", by Henri Nouwen, to learn where God's Spirit is leading us. What is this journey of faith prodding me toward? Where is God leading me? We will be meeting by Zoom, each

Wednesday, 7-8 PM. Look for an email with a link to the study to be sent to the congregation.

**Noon Coffee Hour**—Miss seeing your Grace friends? You don't have to! Join this zoom meeting just to chat & 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)

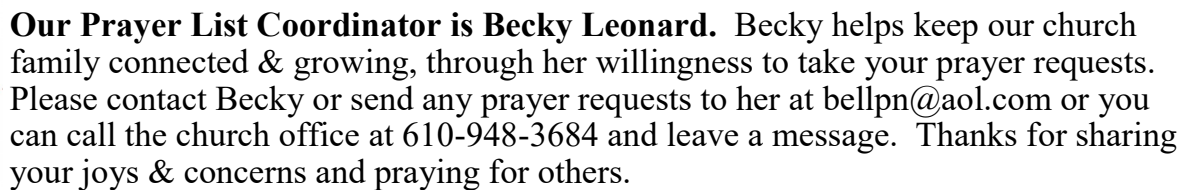
**Instagram search:** [grace.lutheran.royersford](https://www.instagram.com/grace.lutheran.royersford)

**Facebook search:** Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



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DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH 2023  
ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS  
IS Wednesday, February 15th

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