

March 2023

Graceful Greetings



MARCH 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., March 5, Second Sunday of Lent

Sun., March 12, Third Sunday of Lent

Sun., March 19, Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sun., March 26, Fifth Sunday of Lent

Lenten Study: Journeys through Lent—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. You do not need to purchase the book to participate in this study. Topics include —



3/1: Unheeded to Mindful Spirituality; 3/8: Fear to Love; 3/15: Sorrow to Joy;
3/22: Exclusion to Inclusion & 3/29: Denying to Befriending Death



Palm Sunday - The Passion -

Sun., April 2nd, 2023 - 8:15 & 10:30am

Procession & Blessing of the Palms,
Passion Reading & Holy Communion

9:30am - Easter egg hunt in the Social Hall (2 yrs. - 6th grade)

Maundy Thursday - April 6th, 2023 at 7:00pm

Public Confession, Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar - Sanctuary

Good Friday - April 7th, 2023 at 7:00pm

Service of Tenebrae & Seven Last Words of Jesus Sanctuary



Easter Sunday - April 9th, 2023

6:30am - Outside/Sunrise Service (on the front lawn)

8:15 & 10:30am Festival Services with Holy Communion

Pastor's Points: Last month, I thanked the congregation for the laughter over the years. This month, I'm thanking you for the tears. (Yes, really.) It has been an honor and a blessing to walk with you in those moments of struggle and heartbreak – knowing that our words aren't enough, and finding God's love present in our tears. We have shared hugs – the kind that hold each other tightly, knowing that God was also clinging to us. It is fun to find God in good times, but in times of mourning or serious dismay, we discover that our God is so very faithful and steadfast even when our own hearts are trembling.

Each tear and hug has been a blessing that deepened my faith in God's promise to always be with us, no matter what. And, they are a profound reminder of our shared humanity- with its joys and its sorrows. So for that, I thank you for the blessing of shared tears.



From the Deacon's Desk: Journey through Lent

I normally don't cover the same things in my newsletter piece as I did the month before, but I wanted again to encourage you to think about participating in some of our adult formation opportunities. There is still plenty of time to join in. This Lent, ask if maybe God is nudging you to dive in a little more deeply to your spiritual formation. As always, spending time with scripture is a wonderful way to grow in your faith, and our study of Matthew is ongoing on Mondays at 7pm via Zoom, or in person on Thursday mornings at 10am.

If you are looking for something for a shorter term, join our Lenten Study on Wednesday evenings via Zoom where we will discuss the Holy Spirit's movement in our lives - and the journeys the Spirit moves us through. We'll be using Henri Nouwen's Book, *Following the Movements of the Spirit* as a guide.

Another short-term offering is 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.

And don't forget every Sunday morning at 9:15 am we have a book club meeting in the parlor led by Judy Stryker. They are reading the book *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott. Or, join in the fellowship conversation with the group led by Richard Harshaw at the same time.

You can find more information about 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.

Two Important Events Coming Up!! Put Them Both On Your Calendar Now!!

Deacon Allison is celebrating her 10th year of ordination to the Ministry of Word & Service! Come celebrate with us on Sunday, March 26! We will offer a prayer and blessing during worship and then enjoy a meal in the social hall at 11:30, to give thanks to God for Deacon Allison and her ministry! Please let the office know that you are attending by March 10th. (610-948-3684 or gracelutrn@verizon.net)



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., March 16th at 7pm** for our “3rd Thursday Fellowship Zoom”. We have a topic or theme to organize our discussion/sharing each month. . Contact myself or the church office to receive an email with Fellowship Zoom link.
Peace, Brenda Johnson

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.



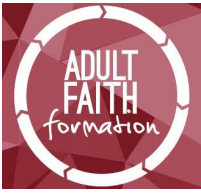
Simply bring your receipts using your **Rewards Card** into church and deposit them into one of the boxes located on the announcement tables at either the Main Street or 6th Avenue entrances. Or, you can mail or delivery them to the church office next time you stop by.

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.



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. Thanks for sharing

Check Out These Other Great Ways to Stay Connected



Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation & Fellowship

- Richard Harshaw's group meets at 9:15 in the choir room for fellowship and lively discussion on different topics each week .
- Judy Stryker's book discussion group meets in the parlor, also at 9:15 am. They are reading together the book, "*Traveling Mercies*", by

Anne Lamott

- 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 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. 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: 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, in the Parlor. 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.



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

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)

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**DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 2023
ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS
IS Wednesday, March 15th**

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