

April 2023
Graceful Greetings



APRIL 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., April 2, Palm Sunday
- Thurs., April 6, Maundy Thursday—7pm Worship
- Fri., April 7, Good Friday—7pm Worship
- Sun., April 9, Easter Sunday—*Alleluia, He Is Risen!*
- Sun., April 16, Second Sunday in Easter/First Communion
- Sun., April 23, Third Sunday of Easter/Confirmation
- Sun., April 30, 4th Sunday of Easter—Pastor’s last day; One Service at 10am



Palm Sunday -The Passion - April 2nd, 2023 - 8:15 & 10:30am
Procession & Blessing of the Palms, Passion Reading & Holy Communion

Wave the palms & shout “Hosanna!” Then follow the journey of Holy Week through the Passion reading of Matthew’s gospel.

9:30am - Easter egg hunt—2 year old through 2nd graders are invited to join us for a traditional Easter Egg Hunt! We’ll meet at 9:30am in the social hall! 3rd - 6th graders are invited to join us for an escape room Egg Hunt in the social hall at 9:30am as well! *Please bring your own baskets*

Maundy Thursday - April 6th, 2023 at 7:00pm—Join us for worship on this night of remembering Christ’s Last Supper & his words to “Love one another.” All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. The service will end with the stripping of the altar.

Good Friday - April 7th, 2023 at 7:00pm—The moving & powerful Seven Last Words of Christ will be read with reflections as the church slowly darkens in anticipation of the sealing of the tomb.



Easter is Coming! Come worship our Risen Lord on Sunday, April 9th! Join us for one of three worship services...

6:30 am Outdoor Sunrise service: Celebrate Easter on the front lawn of the church, watching the sun rise! We will also have a fire pit - a reminder that the Light of Christ is alive! Bring your lawn chair (and umbrella in case of rain!).

8:15 am worship: This traditional service with your favorite Easter hymns and bell choir will celebrate our Lord on this Holy Day of Resurrection.

10:30 am worship: Worship the risen Christ on Easter with the praise band and a children’s message.

Church office will be closed Monday, April 10th

Rise Against Hunger—Sign-ups for Rise Against Hunger will end April 12th. On that day don’t forget to go to Handel’s for ice cream where 20% of the proceeds will go to RAH. You will need a flyer in order for credit to be given. Pick one up at the 6th Ave. entrance or take a picture of one with your phone.



Pastor's Points: For the past two months, my newsletter space has been devoted to saying "thank you" for the laughter and the tears we have shared. In my last "Pastor's points" (by my calculation, there has been 223 of them!), I thank you for allowing God's goodness to shine through you. Again. And Again. And Again.



God has been so very good to us. This congregation has been blessed with a great multitude of resources- the greatest of which is YOU. YOU are Grace's greatest asset. Why? Because you have been unafraid to share from your blessings with so many people – those who are hungry locally and around the world, those who needed help in disasters, veterans, those who have struggled to see or know God, people without a home, the list goes on and on...

You have spoken God's word aloud to your friends and to strangers needing encouragement. You have encouraged the children and youth of this congregation in their faith. You have forgiven when it was hard and asked forgiveness when it was even harder. You have opened your heart in ways you never anticipated. You have been a brilliant and beautiful beacon of God's love to the world and to me. For all of that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Blessings to each and every one of you in the journey ahead! Keep shining!



From the Deacon's Desk: "Easter Promise"

What in your life needs resurrection? Is it the feeling of hope after three years of pandemic living? Is it the renewal of a relationship that's soured? Is it courage to start over after something in your life didn't work out?

Is it your faith? Faith in God? Faith in humanity?

We all have something that needs to be pulled back into life. Something that's gone stale or weak or forgotten. Our Easter promise is that God doesn't forget. God is the renewer of all things. God brings life into the places we thought would never breathe again.

May this season find you rejoicing in the glory of God's Easter promise! May resurrection fill your life with hope and life and love!

Lorraine's Hearing Fund (LHF) was created to provide financial assistance to members of Grace who have a hearing impairment. LHF will begin taking applications for those needing equipment/devices, education or technology. Awards of up to \$2,500/applicant will be considered. To apply, please submit to the church the following information (marked Lorraine's Hearing Fund): member's name & contact information, description of what the award will be used for (i.e. purchase of hearing aid), amount of funding requested & supporting documentation (proof of payment and/or supporting documentation for direct vendor payment). Insurance coverage must be used first, if eligible. Please verify your insurance coverage. **All applications are due May 31, 2023.** Please direct questions to Roxanne Troiano at rmtroiano@verizon.net or 610-574-0559.



Additionally, Grace will also sponsor a LHF fundraising event at Giovanni's & Sons Pizzeria located at 466 Main Street, Royersford on Thursday, May 11, 2023. A portion of the day's proceeds will be donated to Lorraine's Hearing Fund. Please consider supporting this fund by enjoying some food/drink at Giovanni's.



Fellowship Zoom Gathering—Please join me on **Thur., April 20th 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

YOUTH NEWS

Easter Bake Sale - Summer Service Trip Fundraiser! Easter Sunday between 8:15 and 10:30am service in the welcome center, there will be an Easter Bake Sale! Our youth attending will be baking goods to sell to help fundraise for their summer trip through Appalachia Service Project. We are attending with St. James Lutheran church in Limerick. Come, eat, and help our youth service the Appalachia community this summer (July 15-22)



ELCA Youth Gathering New Orleans 2024! There will be a youth gathering in 2024 for high school AND young adults who want to attend! There will be informational meetings starting in May. Keep your eyes & ears open for those meetings! See Kelsey with any questions in the meantime!

Stellar VBS 2023: July 23rd - 27th: 3 year olds through 6th graders are invited to join us in a Stellar VBS, exploring God's Out of this World Love! We are also looking for volunteers for our PreK & elementary ages - from crew leaders to Bible adventures and kidvid! Please see Kelsey or Julie Boyer (Buckwalter) if interested in volunteering! REGISTER HERE: vbspro.events/p/a51128

Youth Leadership Camp: August 13th - 18th, 2023—6th grade through 12th graders are invited to join Kelsey for a week of learning about leadership. This leadership camp would help the youth define their leadership styles with Myers-Briggs test, strength finder & enneagram test. We'd help them find their strengths & weaknesses and then find their passion for advocacy whether it be youth, race, LGBTQIA or other things like homelessness. The last part of this camp then goes into the faith aspect: Where's God? How is God calling you do advocate? Where is the Lutheran theology leading us, how do we walk alongside people we are advocating and fighting for with God?

Register on Grace's website at: <https://www.gracelutheranroyersford.com/leadership-camp/>

Young Adult Bible Study: Join other young adults in a weekly Bible study. We are studying scripture & how the church responds (or doesn't) to God's word through Nadia Bolz-Weber's book, *Pastrix*. We meet on Wednesday nights at 8:00pm via google meet. Room code is hjw-kymn-tti



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

The Church Council of Grace Lutheran Church is calling a special congregational meeting on Sunday, April 16th, 2023. This meeting is solely to discuss a proposal to replace the roof on the "Parsonage" located on Main Street. The estimated cost of the replacement exceeds the authorized council limit. We will hold two (2) in person meetings immediately after the 8:15 & 10:30 services. We will not be holding a virtual session for this meeting so please make every attempt to attend one of the sessions.

Thank you, Jack Claypotch - Council President



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 your joys & concerns and praying for others.

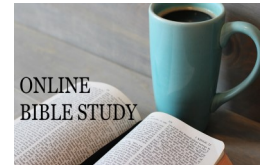
Check Out These Other Great Ways to Stay Connected



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 continues. One group meets via Zoom at 7pm on Monday evenings. Our other group meets in person on Thursday mornings at 10am in the parlor. We no longer are able to do both Zoom and in person on Thursdays. 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 Grief Lectionary" continues this month. We will be meeting in the parlor after the last service on the follow dates: April 2nd, April 16th, April 23rd, May 7th and May 21st. This current group is closed for new participants, but if you are interested in joining a future gathering, please let Deacon Allison know.



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)

Think Spring! Are You Thinking Spring Baseball? Join other Lutherans in supporting the Phillies while providing funds for SEPA Synod Youth Programs by buying tickets to Lutheran Night at the Phillies, Sat. May 20th at 4:05 p.m. against the Chicago Cubs. Ordering your tickets is simple: go to www.phillies.com/lutheran;

Use the password: LUTHERAN

Then select from available tickets. Please contact Shannon Profy in Phillies Sales Office at (215) 218-5465 with any questions. Grab your crew & reserve your seats. Go Phils!



APRIL Prayer Focus

1. Hard workers/International Fun at Work Day
2. Math Teachers/Mathematics Education Month
3. Hallelujah/Palm Sunday
4. Gardens/National Garden Month
5. Flowers/National Dandelion Day
6. Travelers/National Read A Road Map Day
7. Good Friday
8. Wellness/World Health Day
9. He is risen/Easter
10. Brothers and Sisters/National Siblings Day
11. Singers/Barber Shop Quartet Day
12. Fly A Kite/Big Wind Day
13. Plants/International Plant Appreciation Day
14. Uplifting Humor/National Humor Month
15. End Of War/Persian Gulf War Ceasefire
16. Librarians/National Librarian Day
17. Poets/International Haiku Poetry Day
18. Good Food/National Cheeseball Day
19. Friends/National Hanging Out Day
20. Guitar Players/International Guitar Month
21. All Kindergartens
22. Earth Day/Look around and Thank God
23. Fresh Produce/National Zucchini Bread Day
24. Trees/ Arbor Day
25. Penguins/World Penguin Day
26. Phyllis Conroy/Administrative Professional Day
27. Conversation/Tell A Story Day
28. German Heritage/National Pretzel Day
29. Rise Against Hunger
30. Pastor Kraiss Day



CALLING ALL GARDENERS... The Groundhog has indicated that there will be an early spring... actually have we even had winter this year? With that being said, God's Good Garden at Grace will be starting its 11th year shortly. We are looking for members who enjoy gardening and are willing to give a few hours each month to provide fresh vegetables to those less fortunate in our community. Please email me at kmeyers413@verizon.net to be part of the team. Thank You!



Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Reverend Janelle L. Kraiss, Pastor
Deacon Allison Wilcox
Located at 6th Avenue & Main Street
594 Church Street - 1st Fl. (Office & Mailing)
Royersford, PA 19468

**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY 2023
ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS
IS Monday, April 17th**