



August 2023 Graceful Greetings



AUGUST 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., August 6, 10th Sunday After Pentecost
 Sun., August 13, 11th Sunday After Pentecost
 Sun., August 20, 12th Sunday After Pentecost
 Sun., July 27, 13th Sunday After Pentecost/One Service 9:30AM Outdoors

NOTICE – a change in our Summer Worship plans!

Our one combined service for this summer continues at 9:30am, but all of them will be INSIDE. We have heard from many that outside is uncomfortably hot and the ground is uneven, presenting quite a challenge for some of our members.



We had scheduled these outdoor services so we could gather together as one worshipping community. We have since decided to have only one service each week this summer, so we don't really need the outdoor opportunities. We hope you will be able to join us! We will return to two services on September 17th.



Difficult Conversations Forum—On August 6th & 13th, at 10:30am

Deacon Allison will lead a discussion called Handling Difficult Conversations. We'll look at what makes some topics difficult to talk about, how to build trust to engage in difficult conversations, how to listen, and what the stakes are if we avoid having difficult conversations.

We will meet in the parlor following the service. We will not engage in any specific difficult topics, but instead will begin to prepare ourselves to have those conversations with each other, whether it is in the church space, or our home and workspaces.

We will meet in the parlor following the worship service. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more, contact Deacon Allison at deaconallison12@gmail.com.

Reducing and Reusing Workshop:

This workshop aims to teach children about the importance of sustainability and how to implement it in their daily lives. This will be followed by a craft using recycled materials. You are welcome to bring your own, but we will have plenty. This will be at Grace Lutheran Church, at 2:30 on August 14th. No sign ups needed, just come!



Change, or transitions, can be unsettling. This is stepping into a new way. It takes some effort to step away from what we know, from what is familiar and step into something new, something we cannot yet see clearly. Some changes we choose (graduating, getting married, getting a new job, relocating, having a child, etc.) and they feel more desirable, we want them. Some changes are laid upon us (loss of job, illness, death of a loved one, departure of a pastor) and they can feel less desirable. We have the capacity to manage both when we stick together.

Here at Grace Lutheran Church, we are in the process of organizing our Transition Team. This group of five active and engaged members will use a variety of ways to hear as many people and points of view as possible. Once they have gathered what they believe is sufficient input they will begin to articulate how Grace sees itself, what its values are, and what it believes God is calling it into next. If in the writing, they feel questions or omissions have occurred they will endeavor to remedy these. This process will most likely take us toward the end of the year.

This may feel like it is taking a long time to get about identifying the next pastor. It does take a while if we are to be thorough. As your Interim Pastor I believe it is important for Grace to take some time to reflect and discuss:

1. How does Grace imagine doing ministry in this post-Covid world? A great many things have shifted, so that what has worked well for quite some time may not work so well now. Your Council is already having such discussions.
2. What potential change or modification gives rise to the greatest anxiety? Attention to such items, while challenging and often anxiety producing, may help Grace move past what could be its greatest limitations.

Such a process of self-reflection and evaluation will help propel Grace into its next great chapter of service. If you have concerns about this transition, I would really like to hear from you. Please be in touch with me so we can arrange a time to talk. Transitions are always more easily handled when they are handled together.

Peace in Christ <>< Pastor Wayne



From the Deacon's Desk: I read an article recently about the potential dangers lying in wait for us with the ongoing political divide in the US. There were many startling statistics, up to and including the fact that roughly half of Americans believe we are headed for another civil war - that we are nearing a tipping point where our fundamental beliefs will tear us apart. It is frightening to consider worst case scenarios, but our faith tells us not to give into despair. Yet at the same time it also compels us to face the reality of division and to be voices of hope amid the fear. It calls us to cast love where hatred is being sown. It calls us to listen rather than add another angry voice into the mix.

Over the years I've heard complaints when teaching or preaching in a church, that it gets "too political." Yet the reality of not having faithful, civil discourses about politics in the public forum has contributed to where we are today. Not being "political" in church also ignores that Jesus was himself political. Politics after all is about people - from the Greek word, "politikos," meaning "citizens pertaining to the state." Jesus was all about the citizens of his time, who were in need.

Many of us were never taught how to talk about deep differences with others in love. Civil discourse isn't something most of us learned in school. But of all the places to talk about politics civilly, and in love, what better place than church?

So, let's start talking. On August 6th and 13th, to get the ball rolling, I'll be holding a short two-week series on "Handling Difficult Conversations." Not all difficult conversations are political. Some are deeply personal or familial. So, whoever you are, you've probably had them. More information is in this newsletter. I hope you will consider joining us!

Peace on the journey, Deacon Allison

YOUTH NEWS



Youth Leadership Camp: August 13th - 18th, 2023—6th grade -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, and enneagram test. We'd help them find their strengths & weaknesses and then find their passion for advocacy, whether it be youth or race or LGBTQIA or other things like homelessness. The last part of this camp then goes into the faith aspect: Where's God? How's God calling you do advocate? Where's 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/>

Superhero Summer - there will be 2 more newsletters for your families to engage in God's superhero work! August 6th and August 20th!

ELCA Youth Gathering New Orleans 2024! There will be a youth gathering in 2024 for high school AND young adults who want to attend! Join us for information meetings Sunday, 8/27 right after service (10:30am). in the welcome center, or 9/10 at 7pm in the All-Purpose Room!

Mission Trip Fundraisers: Giving Wall - Through August, you will find a Giving Wall in the Narthex. This wall has numbered 1-100 envelopes. We invite you to take an envelope and put in the amount of money that corresponds with the number on the envelope (cash or check memo Youth Trip ASP) and put it in the offering to help youth fundraise for their mission trip this summer to Kentucky to serve those who have been affected by flooding.

Young Adult Bible Study we'll restart in the fall. Information to come.



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

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Concert at Valley Forge—Plan to attend the much beloved outdoor bagpipe performance, at the Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge on Wednesday, 8/23, at 7:30pm. Bring your chair, a beverage & snacks or purchase something from the Cabin Shop Cafe. They do take a freewill offering during the concert. Hope to see you at there!



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 4th, to celebrate the Labor Day holiday! Have a safe holiday!

LABOR DAY

Check Out These Other Great Ways to Stay Connected



Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation & Fellowship

-Richard Harshaw's group may meet on occasion during the summer. Check with Richard to find out when.

-Judy Stryker's book discussion group will break for the rest of the summer and resume in September.

Deacon Allison is planning to offer an adult study during the month of August. Stay tuned for details in the next newsletter and in upcoming announcements.

Our study of the Gospel of Matthew is on a summer break.

We will begin again the week of September 11th.



Facebook Live Opportunity —Join Deacon Allison on **Sundays** on our Facebook page. **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.



Noon Coffee Hour—Miss seeing your Grace friends? You don't have to! Join this zoom meeting at 12:30, Sunday mornings, 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: gracelutr@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)



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.

AUGUST Prayer Focus

1. Our sisters at Grace/National Girlfriend's Day
2. Grace's artists/American artist appreciation month
3. Families/American Family Day
4. Clowns/National Clown Week
5. Hard work/Work Like A Dog Day
6. Our amazing bodies/Wiggle Our Toes Day
7. Forgiveness/International Forgiveness Day
8. Our eyes and vision/ Eye Exam Month
9. Books/Book Lover's Day
10. Preventative medicine/Immunization Awareness Month
11. Sons and daughters /Sons and Daughters Day
12. Happiness/Smile Week
13. Left handers/International Left Hander's Day
14. Peace/Japan surrendered 1945, end of WW1
15. Relaxing/National Relaxation Day
16. Friends/Friendship Week
17. Those who struggle with temptation
18. Care of creation/Homeless Animal Day
19. Vegetables/National Potato Day
20. College students returning to school
21. Senior Citizen's Day
22. Helping God/Be An Angel Day
23. Those who are traveling
24. Teachers preparing for a new school year
25. Those who argue/Kiss and Make-up Day
26. Women/Women's Equality Day
27. Hospitality to visitors
28. Visions and dreams/Dream Day
29. Our missionaries Steven and Marta
30. National Marshmallow Toasting Day/Celebrate end of Summer
31. The great outdoors/National Eat Outside Day



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

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• **DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2023** •
• **ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS** •
• **IS Tuesday, August 15th** •
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