



July 2023
Graceful Greetings



JULY 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., July 2, 5th Sunday After Pentecost
- Sun., July 9, 6th Sunday After Pentecost
- Sun., July 16, 7th Sunday After Pentecost
- Sun., July 23, 8th Sunday After Pentecost
- Sun., July 30, 9th Sunday After Pentecost/One Service 9:30AM Outdoors

Have You Heard The News About Summer Worship 2023?!

After conversations with Pastor Shelor, the staff, the Worship & Music Committee and our Council President, we have decided that Grace will have one combined service throughout the summer, at 9:30am. Our one worship service format will continue, in the Sanctuary, through Sept. 10th. On that day, our worship will be followed by our Ministry Madness and then at 11:00am, our Church Picnic.



Also, Grace will be having outdoor worship services at the end of each month this summer, as we celebrate the season. We’ll worship outdoors only on Sunday—July 30 & August 27, at 9:30am, on the lawn of Grace Office, weather permitting. Don’t forget to bring a lawn chair. In case of inclement weather, worship will be in the Sanctuary.

Combining worship will be a wonderful opportunity for us to all gather together as community. We plan on returning to our usual two worship services on Sunday, September 17th. Hope to see you here all summer!

Stellar VBS 2023: July 23rd - 27th



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

The Church Office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th, in celebration of the Independence Day Holiday! Have a safe holiday!



TRANSITION



Transition is simply the process of getting from one place to another. We do it all the time. When we move from room to room, house to car, store to store. These transitions feel different because they are familiar to us. We have practiced them so often we don't really notice. The current transition at Grace most likely feels different. It has been some time since this community has experienced this kind of transition. It likely feels less familiar, less practiced, and a bit more unsettling.

This is why the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA provides Interims like me to come, live with, and walk with you through this transition. I have done this several times. I have some special training to help you do this. Together we can do this, and do it well.

We have begun to recruit persons to serve on the Transition Team. This is a group of four or five persons who know this congregation very well. Who love this faith community. Who will lead us in some activities to help us see ourselves more clearly. This will allow us to articulate for pastoral candidates who we are, what we value, and how we understand God is calling us to serve.

It is okay to be anxious. This is new stuff. It is not okay to get crazy and loose all perspective. If you are concerned in any way about this transition I would love to hear from you. Please be in touch with me so we can arrange a time to talk. We transition all the time. Together we can make this transition into whatever is next for Grace Lutheran Church.

Peace in Christ <><
Pastor Wayne



From the Deacon's Desk:

For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven. ~

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ~ Hebrews 13:8

It seems redundant to say we are in a time of change, doesn't it? But here I go anyway...we are in a time of change! J You've by now noticed some of the small changes made to the worship service. Or maybe you haven't, which is fine too! And now comes the news of one summer service.

There are pros and cons to one summer service: one of the cons being a worry that we will lose people. But there is something wonderful about all being together and getting worship with folks you don't normally get to see at worship during the year.

Maybe you aren't crazy about the new time, 9:30. Maybe it's earlier than you'd like or later than you'd like. Maybe you worry about whether music you prefer will be heard.

Whatever your concern, I ask that you stay with us. This is a wonderful opportunity to be reminded that we are one community. The Hebrews passage above reminds us that it is about WHO we worship. Not how. Jesus Christ remains Jesus Christ at 8:15, 9:30, or 10:30. Jesus Christ remains Jesus Christ no matter what songs we are singing or instruments we are hearing.

Take advantage of this opportunity to connect with God in a new way, and to connect with the whole worshipping community.

I hope to see you this summer! Peace on the journey!
Deacon Allison Wilcox

FELLOWSHIP JULY NEWS

- **Carillon Concerts at Valley Forge**—July brings the return of the Carillon Outdoor Concerts at the Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge on Weds evenings 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.

The carillon consists of 58 tuned bronze bells played entirely by hand. Their website states the bells range from 13 1/2 pounds to 8,000 pounds and cover a range of nearly 5 octaves! It is awe-inspiring! The carillonneurs come from far & wide to perform: 7/5 from Florida, 7/12 from the Netherlands, 7/19 from California & 7/26 from New York. The much beloved bagpipe performance will be held on 8/23. Hope to see you at the concerts!



- **Honor Our Treasures Event**—Please join us for a Pancake Breakfast & Program Honoring Our Treasures (our oldest Grace members) on Sunday July 30th. We will have an Outdoor Service on the Church Office lawn at 9:30am, followed by a Pancake Breakfast in the Social Hall at 10:30am, then a short program honoring our Grace members ages 90 years and up. These long-time members of Grace are a treasure indeed ... from their faith in God to their service to Grace. It is our hope that you can join us in celebrating all of them. The Fellowship Committee is in need of breakfast donations and volunteers to help plan, set up, cook & serve the breakfast. Please see the poster in the 6th Ave. entry to sign up. Thank you!

If you will be 90 years old or older by the end of 2023, you should have received a letter with more details. If you did not receive a letter, please let the Church Office know.

Thank you, Brenda Johnson



Thank you to our worship volunteers!!! Every week, people are busy running tech, reading, singing & playing instruments, being an usher or trustee or reader, delighting little ones (and big ones!) with children's sermons, preparing the altar & worship space, serving communion, and more! *Did you know that more help is needed?* Most of these opportunities have flexibility and they are easy to do!

What can you do to help create an inspiring worship service? (Ask Pastor Wayne, Deacon Allison or Kelsey – they will gladly help you figure that out!)

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



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 - Summer G.R.A.C.E Place for all ages! Due to the combined service at 9:30am, we will be moving Superhero Summer to a bi-weekly family summer newsletter!

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 Sundays 7/23 and 8/27 right after service (10:30am). in the welcome center, and 9/10 at 7pm in the All-Purpose Room!

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Young Adult Bible Study has ended for the summer. We will restart in the fall. Information to come in August.

Mission Trip Fundraisers:

Giving Wall - This summer, 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.

Rent-a-Youth - Do you have any spring cleaning that needs to be done including yard cleanup or washing windows? And do you need help doing all of this or would like to pay somebody else to do this because these tasks don't seem appealing? Well, look no further! Our two youth attending this Summer's mission trip are available for rent for any tasks you need help with! Please reach out to Kelsey to rent a youth for your projects! All proceeds will go to fund this Summer's mission trip to Appalachia service project!



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

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. Check next newsletter and upcoming announcements for summer break information.

-Judy Stryker's book discussion group that normally meets in the parlor, at 9:15 am, is finished with the Anne Lamott book, and will be taking a break for the summer. Stay tuned for info about fall book studies.

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.

