

October 2023 Graceful Greetings



OCTOBER 2023 WORSHIP SERVICES

If you are unable to worship with us in person, our worship services can also be found on our website under the “Worship” tab & on our Facebook page or YouTube channel.

Sun., October 1, 18th Sunday After Pentecost
 Sun., October 8, 19th Sunday After Pentecost
 Sun., October 15, 20th Sunday After Pentecost/One Service at 9:30am
 Sun., October 22, 21st Sunday After Pentecost
 Sun., October 29, 22nd Sunday After Pentecost/Reformation Sunday



Stewardship Sunday

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God provides through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

1 Peter 4:10-11

“Blessed to be a Blessing Sunday” is coming up on October 15, 2023. We will have one combined worship service at 9:30am, with a celebration brunch to follow, in the Social Hall.

This year’s Stewardship view will be on using our gifts and our communication with others. While we know it is the time of year to start to prepare for next year’s budget and expenses, I also want to share that it is important to realize that we all have been given specific talents and gifts to be shared with one another, for God’s glory.

Some have the gift of speaking/communicating with one another with love and compassion. Knowing what to say to someone in need or with encouraging words, to lift someone up. Some have the gift of sharing, whether it’s extra items we may have or something we just want to share and give to someone. Others may share a note, an email or a prayer. Some share their talents through music or crafts. Either way, we have been given faithful hearts from God above who knows we can share these things with loved ones, or even strangers.

Sunday, October 15, 2023 please plan to share our day in church, as we will also be having a brunch to thank the congregation for all of their support and efforts.

You will be seeing a letter come out as well as the Estimate of giving cards for your 2024 pledge and a reservation form for the lunch. Please be sure to help us by filling the pledge cards & reservation forms out and returning them to the church or you can call or email the church office with your pledge and/or reservation. Thank you.

Stewardship, Tammy Epprecht

It is pretty easy to notice the days are getting shorter. It is darker when I arise, and much darker before I retire. We are well into the fall season.

Already some of the vegetables have run their course, and it won't be long before the leaves begin to turn, dry, and fall. For many it is a difficult season as it brings anxiety about dying. This is an anxiety that drains much of the joy out of life and can often leave one sad and depressed.

God is well aware of these feelings. For God established dying as an intricate part of the created order. Remember from Genesis 3:22 "And the Lord God said, 'This man has now become like one of us, knowing good from evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.'" Because of Adam's disobedience God banished him from paradise and declared human life will be hard. We will endure heartbreak, hardships, obstacles, and death. This is just how it is.

AND God declared more – there will be resurrection. God sent Jesus to live among us, to take all humanity could throw at him, to suffer, to die, AND to be raised – RESURRECTED so we could see and know death is not the end. The death we so fear, be it of body, mind, dream, job, family, what ever, is not permanent. God has promised us resurrection, new life. I know that in the midst of dying this can be difficult to claim. But that does not make God's promise any less so.

We have been claimed by God. We are the children of God. We have been promised – MORE. Resurrection is coming. I just can't tell you when. So, we wait with thanksgiving, with this incredible promise God has given us to reduce our anxiety on the journey.



From the Deacon's Desk

I'm cheating this month with a follow up to my column last month!

October 1st begins a small change to our Sunday morning Adult Sunday School schedule. On the first Sunday of the month, in place of Judy Stryker's book club, there will be alternate programming held in the parlor (L05).

10/1 - Martin Luther and Our Lutheran Heritage (Deacon Allison)

11/5 - All the Saints (Pastor Wayne)

12/3 - Christmas Around the World (Pastor Wayne)

I hope you will join us!!

Also, on October 21st, there will be a Women's Retreat held at the Farmhouse at Temenos Retreat Center in West Chester. October 9th is the cut off date to sign up. Space is limited, so please contact Deacon Allison for more information or to RSVP as soon as possible at deaconallison12@gmail.com.

Peace on the journey, Deacon Allison

From the Transition Team -

THANK YOU! Your responses to our first survey are much appreciated. The Transition Team will now begin to review, categorize, and discuss all you have shared with us. This process usually begins to identify some basic areas of agreement about how we understand ourselves.



To further refine our understanding the Transition Team...

- will have some of its members available in the Welcome Center after worship to hear what you chose to share and to answer any questions you may have
- is consulting with every group (AA, Scouts, Salvation Army, Magic Memories, etc.) who utilizes our facilities
- is interviewing some long-term deeply engaged members for their wise reflections
- is meeting with Council to hear their thoughts as our chosen leaders
- will place before you a second survey beginning October 1 to help us prioritize the areas of ministry in which we most want the next pastor engaged
- is hosting a Round Table Conversation on Sunday, October 29 between services and a Virtual Round Table Zoom that afternoon

Again, thanks for sharing! Please continue to speak with any member of the Transition Team as we continue this wonderful process of self-understanding.

Transition Team Members:

Karen Brown, Greg Eynon, John Fraunfelter, Kate Petel & Heather Tyrrell



On Sunday, November 5th at the 8:00 & 10:30am services, we will remember not only the departed members of our congregation, but other loved ones as well. You are invited to submit the name(s) of those people to the church office for inclusion in the weekly announcements & as part of this special service that will commemorate the faithful departed. Please watch for the insert on the Narthex or 6th Ave. welcome table, in October or call the church office to submit names.

Information must be received by 8am, Oct. 30th for inclusion. Please join us for worship, prayer & the naming of all saints, including those especially beloved to us. If you will be worshipping with us virtually, you may wish to light a candle to remember & honor your own loved ones.

Magic Memories Early Learning Schools—We are dedicated to providing:

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Safety, healthy meals & loving staff in a warm, trusting & home-like setting.

Emotional security, self-esteem & social development of the children.

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Calling all Crafters!!!! Grace Lutheran will host a Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, Nov. 4th. We're looking for crafters who have an interest in displaying their products & helping our Youth raise money for their 2024 Youth Gathering in New Orleans. If you're interested in joining us please fill out the link below. We're working on a first come/first get basis, and we'll inform you of whether or not your products are already on display. **Please register by October 10th, 2023 at:**

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdCeW35wo7bkhnktz371a0ThGdyhd67_Kqu7I2xrxkTQQ8mKw/viewform)

[e/1FAIpQLSdCeW35wo7bkhnktz371a0ThGdyhd67_Kqu7I2xrxkTQQ8mKw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdCeW35wo7bkhnktz371a0ThGdyhd67_Kqu7I2xrxkTQQ8mKw/viewform)

Thanks for your interest in our event & support of our youth.

Lorraine's Hearing Fund (created to provide financial assistance to members of Grace who have a hearing impairment), will take applications for those in need of equipment/devices, education, or technology. Awards up to \$2,500 each will be considered for applicants. To apply, email Roxanne Troiano (rmtroiano@verizon.net) & she will either email or mail you an application (whichever is best for the applicant).



All applications are due by October 31, 2023. Applicants will be notified in November of eligibility and the amount of the award. Please direct questions to Roxanne Troiano.

Save the Date for a Lorraine's Hearing Fund Fundraiser--this fund provides financial assistance to individuals diagnosed with a hearing impairment.



WHEN: Thursday, October 12, 2023

HOURS: 10 am - 9 pm

WHERE: Giovanni's Pizza & Restaurant, 466 Main Street, Royersford, PA
Why cook when you can have lunch, a date night, or a meal out with family and friends. Have someone else cook & clean up while helping to raise money for a great cause. A portion of the day's proceeds will be donated to LHF.

Julia's Grace Foundation has been selected as one of the charities that will "Take the plunge" on Tuesday evening, October 10, at 7:30pm, for an opportunity to win a \$10,000 community grant from Thrivent Financial. Participants who attend the virtual event get to vote on the winning charity, The charity with the most votes wins, so we are hoping that we can get as many supporters as possible to attend and vote for Julia's Grace Foundation.

During this live interactive event, each charity will "take the plunge" to earn your vote for funding for their nonprofit. You'll have the opportunity to learn about how these organizations are impacting their communities & help the Thrivent Member Network award \$25,000 in community grants. Register at: <https://bit.ly/-Take-The-Plunge>



Please let me know if you have any questions.
With hugs, Janet Eveland

YOUTH NEWS



G.R.A.C.E. Place has begun, at 9:30am!

G.R.A.C.E. Place programming is for preschool through 6th graders and will be the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month, from 9:30am - 10:15am.

October Programming will be October 8th AND October 29th!

On October 29th, kids are invited to come dressed in their church appropriate Halloween costumes and join us for the Pumpkin Parable in LO8-9! Parents are encouraged to attend the Table Discussion with the Transition team in the Social Hall!

ELCA Youth Gathering registration (\$300 and registration forms) due to Kelsey NO LATER than October 1st! Registration forms can be found on the website under Youth - ELCA Youth Gathering OR in the Narthex. Checks can be made out to Grace Lutheran Church and memo: ELCA Youth Gathering. 8th - 12th graders are encouraged to attend this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Calling all Young Adults for a Bible Study! Join Kelsey Wednesday nights at 6pm online, starting October 11th via Google Meet (<https://meet.google.com/egw-vnvg-nxy>) for a Bible Study!

Parents are invited to attend a monthly small group held by Kelsey, in the Prayer Croner Room, starting at 9:30am. Dates below:

Oct. 29th, Nov. 10th, Dec. 10th, Jan. 21st, Feb. 25th, April 14th, May 19th, and June 9th.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas, we wish you a Merry Christmas and happy Christmas pageant! It is time to think about the Christmas Pageant - Sign-ups for the Christmas Pageant are out starting October 15th. We are looking for non-speaking parts, readers, and speaking characters! Please see Kelsey if you're interested OR grab a cast sign-up in the Narthex on the toolbox table!



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

Women's Retreat

Women from Grace are invited to a day-long retreat on **Sat., October 21st** to be held at the Farmhouse at Temenos Retreat Center in West Chester. The retreat will last from 9:00am to 4:30pm. We'll discuss what it means to be a woman today when so much seems to be changing around us. This will be a time to enjoy the company of other women in our congregation and share our joys, sorrows, and have some fun and learning along the way. Temenos has a beautiful facility, and we will have opportunity to enjoy the nature surrounding it. Lunch will be provided.



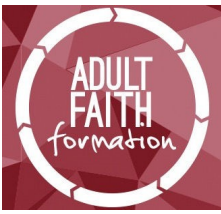
The cost for the retreat is \$25 per person. Scholarships will be available. Please let Deacon Allison know if the cost is prohibitive.

Also, Temenos is a short drive from restaurants in West Chester and Downingtown. If you are interested in extending our time by having dinner together afterwards, let Deacon Allison know when you register.

Space is limited so please contact Deacon Allison for more information or to **RSVP by Monday, Oct. 9th at the latest (though please note that sign ups may end before that, if we reach the maximum number)**. Contact her either in the church office or at deaconallison12@gmail.com.

Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey

Adult Faith Formation Opportunities—Sunday Mornings at 9:15am



Weekly - Richard Harshaw's group continues to meet in the Choir Room (L04)

On the First Sunday of each month, beginning in October, Deacon Allison will be leading an adult formation discussion in the Parlor (L05). The topic on October 1st is Martin Luther and our Lutheran heritage.

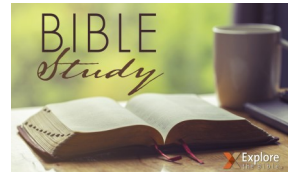
On the 2nd, 3rd, 4th & occasionally 5th, Sundays of the month, a book discussion group will meet in the Parlor, led by Judy Stryker. The group will be reading "*Holy Envy*", by Barbara Brown Taylor. The author is an Episcopal priest who is teaching a college class about other people and their religious traditions. Through those religions, we learn to accept others and reevaluate our own thoughts about God.

Morning Grace Daily Devotions may be found at allisonwilcox.com. Sign up there to have these devotions delivered directly to your email box Mondays through Fridays.

Bible Study—The Gospel of Matthew - all are welcome to join in this journey, as we continue with Matthew Chapter 15.

Via Zoom on Monday evenings at 7:00pm

In person on Thursday mornings at 10:00am, in the church parlor (Rm. L05).



Facebook Live Opportunity —Each week Deacon Allison or Pastor Wayne will post a Facebook Live segment to our Facebook page, for your reflection and consideration.

Interested in joining Grace? Please contact Deacon Allison at deaconallison12@gmail.com, to learn more about membership at Grace. Our next information class will begin soon.



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.

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)

