

February 2024 Graceful Greetings



FEBRUARY 2024 WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, February 4—5th Sunday of Epiphany

One service at 9:30am with Annual Congregational Meeting to follow

Sunday, February 11—Transfiguration of Our Lord

Council Installation

Wednesday, February 14—Ash Wednesday—One Service at 6pm

Sunday, February 18—1st Sunday of Lent

Sunday, February 25—2nd Sunday of Lent

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.



Please join us for our Annual Meeting! It will be held on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024. We will have one service at 9:30am, with the meeting to follow worship. Your input is important as we discuss ministries, mission & vision, budgets and more. Reports will be sent via email on January 19th. If you do NOT have access to email and wish to receive a hard copy, you will need to notify the church office. Reserved copies may be picked up at the office after Jan. 19th.

Wednesday, Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday (two worship opportunities):

Noon – Royersford United Methodist Church will have a service with Ashes – to which we have been invited & 6:00 pm – Grace Lutheran will have a service with Ashes (to which we have invited Royersford United Methodist)



Holy Week



Mark Your Calendar Now to Join Us for Holy Week Worship:

3/24, Palm Sunday – Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem with palms, hallelujahs, and great fanfare

3/28, Maundy Thursday – Jesus’ great gift of His presence at the Table, even in the face of betrayal & stripping of the altar

3/29, Good Friday Service of Tenebrae (diminishing lights) after each Scripture reading the room gets darker & darker until only the solitary light of Christ re-

mains.

3/31, Easter Sunday: 6:30 am Sunrise Service (outside) with Holy Communion

8:15 am Traditional Holy Communion & 10:30 am Non-traditional Holy Communion

As we make our way through this season of the Epiphany (the star in the East) we are rapidly approaching the season of Lent. Many of us Christians have grown up with long-standing practices (Shrove Tuesday pancakes, ashes, mid-week worship, palms, institution of Holy Communion, and the deep darkness of Good Friday) in preparation for the blazing light of Easter. Over the years, and through the pandemic, some of these practices have changed, and some have been maintained.



Here at Grace Lutheran, we have the following plans for 2024:

Tuesday, Feb. 13 – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner; Organized by our Youth in the Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday (two worship opportunities):

Noon – Royersford United Methodist Church will have a service with Ashes – to which we have been invited & 6:00 pm – Grace Lutheran will have a service with Ashes (to which we have invited Royersford United Methodist)

Sundays of Lent – the theme for this season is **CROSSING OVER**. With Grace in the midst of significant transition we felt it would be helpful to visit Scripture stories about crossing over (Jesus being driven into the wilderness, Joshua crossing the Jordan River, prophet moving from Elijah to Elisha, Paul ship wrecked, Moses crossing the Red Sea, Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey)

EACH WEDNESDAY we will post a video meditation following the same Crossing Over theme. There will be **NO** mid-week in-person gatherings.

Holy Week:

Palm Sunday – Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with palms, hallelujahs, and great fanfare

Maundy Thursday – Jesus' great gift of His presence at the Table, even in the face of betrayal & stripping of the altar

Good Friday Service of Tenebrae (diminishing lights) after each Scripture reading the room gets darker and darker until only the solitary light of Christ remains.

Easter Day

6:30 am Sunrise Service (outside) with Holy Communion

8:15 am Traditional Holy Communion

10:30 am Non-traditional Holy Communion

I encourage you to engage in this time of preparation as we look to and anticipate God's remarkable act of resurrection. An incredible act of love for us, that gives us life and hope.

Peace in Christ <><

Pastor Wayne



From the Deacon's Desk: Love and Lent

This year, Ash Wednesday takes place on Valentine's Day. On the surface, you probably couldn't think of any two days that are less alike. We think of Lent and Ash Wednesday maybe particularly – as being a somber time; a time we are supposed to remember all the ways in which we have let God down.

And yet love is at the center. In the Ash Wednesday reading we get from the prophet Joel, God reminds us of that love.

12 Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

13 rend your hearts and not your clothing.


Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love

In Lent, we return to God in love because we were first loved; despite the finite nature of this life, the love of God abounds. It doesn't end. So when we receive that cross of ash on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, we can know that it is also in the shape of a heart.

Peace on the journey, *Deacon Allison*

Assisted Listening System Now Available for Services: Have trouble hearing during services? Please reach out to an Usher when you arrive if you'd like to use an assisted listening device. We have 2 models: a loop around the neck that works directly with most hearing aids; and an over-the-ear speaker. Each has personal volume control.



 **Recycle for Ronald McDonald House Charities!** Molly Moran is inviting everyone at Grace Lutheran to collect tabs for Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia. The tabs you collect create comfort and hope for families when they need it most. It's easy, just drink your favorite pull tab canned beverage, save the tabs and bring them in to Grace. There is a bucket in the Welcome Center for you to put them in. I'll take care of the rest!! Thank you.

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.



YOUTH NEWS

G.R.A.C.E. Place 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, 9:30 - 10:15am. February programming will be February 18th! We will NOT have G.R.A.C.E. Place on Sunday Feb 4th due to the annual meeting.



Parents are invited to attend a monthly small group held by Kelsey, in the Prayer Croner Room, at 9:30am. Dates below: Feb. 25th, April 14th, May 19th, and June 9th.

High Schoolers: 2nd & 4th Sunday's, you're invited to meet in the high school room for fellowship and food! The 1st & 3rd Sunday's, they are invited to assist in a G.R.A.C.E. Place classroom. AND, on February 4th from 6-7:30pm they are invited to High School Youth Group in the social hall!

Tuscarora Youth Retreat (6th - 12th graders) is coming up March 15th - 17th! Registration forms can be found in the confirmation class and in the narthex. Registrations are due January 28th! \$150 per person!

Soda Pop Can Tab Collection for Ronald McDonald House! One of our youth, Molly Moran, is collecting pop can tabs for RMH in Philly! You can drop yours off in the bucket in the Welcome Center.

Mark your Calendars for a Pancake Dinner! ELCA Youth & Young Adult Gathering attendees are providing a pancake dinner on Fat Tuesday, February 13th, in the social hall of Grace, from 5:30-8pm! Tickets will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids 18 and under. 2 and under are free. See Kaitlyn Stebner, Riley Thomson, Austin Traynor, or Kelsey for tickets!

Valentine's Date Night for Parents!! Friday, February 16th babysitting Fundraiser! Can't get out during the week to celebrate with your special someone? Babysitters too expensive?? ELCA Youth gathering attendees have the perfect solution—they are providing a babysitting night from 5:30-8pm at Grace! \$10 per family for babysitting! Drop off between 5:30-6:30. Dinner at 6:30pm. That's enough time for a romantic dinner, a movie or a quick trip to stroll hand in hand through the outlets or K of P mall. See Kelsey for more details.

Lent! This year we will provide weekly family take-home kits for our lent program! Kelsey will send out an email about when and where to pick up these take home kits!



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



Adult Service Project! Adults, are you interested in building homes for those who have lost theirs due to natural disasters in Tennessee? Alongside St. James Lutheran church in Limerick, Grace would like to take a team in the spring to help Appalachia Service Project with new build projects in Tennessee. If you are interested in this opportunity, please reach out to Kelsey!

Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey



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

Weekly -

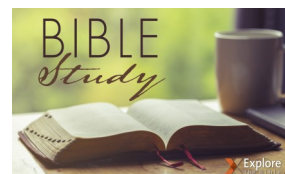
Richard Harshaw's group continues to meet in the Choir Room (L04) at 9:15 am. Judy Stryker's group meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in the parlor (L05). They are reading *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

On the first Sunday of the month, alternate programming will be offered in place of the book group in the parlor, led by either Pastor Wayne or Deacon Allison. **There will be no first of the month Adult Forum on February 4th due to the annual meeting.** Deacon Allison will again lead a forum on March 3rd.

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 groups meet on Monday evening at 7:00pm via Zoom & Thursday mornings at 10:00am in the parlor (room L05). We will complete our study of the Gospel of Matthew at the end of this month and will next do a shorter study before we break for the summer. Let Deacon Allison know if you'd like a link to the Monday Zoom.



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.

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)
