

January 2024
Graceful Greetings



JANUARY 2024 WORSHIP SERVICES

Our Worship Services are at 8:15am (Traditional) and 10:30am (Non-Traditional)

Sunday, January 7—Baptism of Our Lord
Sunday, January 14—2nd Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday, January 21—3rd Sunday of Epiphany
Sunday, January 28—4th Sunday of Epiphany

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.

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.



PAINTING WITH MADISON— Sun., Jan 21st at 1:30pm, in the All-Purpose Room. Create a winter scene using acrylic paint while supporting Madison's July 2024 trip to the Youth/Young Adult Gathering. \$25 fee includes all supplies, step-by-step instructions & snacks. Sign up in the Narthex. Join her in the Welcome Center between services for her Snowman Sale too.

We have all seen or experienced that moment on the playground when two people were identified as team captains and then took turns choosing teammates. No one wanted to be the last remaining person, the one neither team really wanted, but grudgingly had to take anyway. We all much prefer to be included, but all of us have experienced, at one time or another, being left out. It hurts and can leave deep emotional pain and scars.



Most of these school age traumas reside unnoticed in our distant past and cause us very little difficulty. This changes, and is particularly painful, when one is excluded by a religious community that proclaims they are welcoming to all. When in truth they are clearly only welcoming to those who are like them. Jesus frowned on this.

Jesus went to great lengths to bridge this gap and intentionally and specifically include the most culturally undesirable, the adulterer, the tax collector, the thief, the unclean, the enemy. And Jesus included each of us. And then Jesus calls each of us, expects each of us, to welcome those he welcomed, to eat with those with whom he ate, to sit with those with whom he sat, to bridge the gap and intentionally and specifically include those who everyone else has left out.

This is a challenge for those of us who have already been included. It is scary, and vulnerable, and inconvenient for us. And yet each person needs to be included, needs to belong. We can offer this to our neighbor, just as at some time in our past, another offered it to us. And in so doing we discover the promise of God, that we will find in the one we include – our Lord Jesus. For it is with those who have been excluded that Jesus most especially dwells.

As we enter the New Year let us intentionally and specifically make space among us to include those who have been left out.

Peace in Christ <><

Pastor Wayne

Thank You! To this remarkable Christian community, to the Leadership, to the Staff, and to a collection of individuals who have shared with us a variety of gifts (cards, books, goodies, gift card to a local restaurant, etc.). I and my family are most appreciative of your care and generosity. We pray you feel as blessed and loved by those who surround you.

Pastor Wayne

Thank you!



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!



From the Deacon's Desk: What are your hopes and dreams for 2024?

I've never been big on idea New Year's resolutions as much as I am of hoping and dreaming into the New Year. Studies show that resolutions tend to fall by the wayside. But dreaming? Hoping? I think that ignites our creative juices! It's helpful I think to dream big in all the areas of your life: home & family, work, social life, and of course, church.

What relationships do you want to strengthen this year? What bucket list item do you want to cross off? What learning do you want to do? What hobby do you want to try? What project do you want to finish? What place do you want to visit?

And what are the areas in your life of faith that you want to grow in? Prayer? Bible knowledge? Worship participation? Community outreach?

Fortunately, we have a place to help you with that one! To take a first step, shoot me an email and schedule a time to talk. I'd love to help you with your faith-centered dreams! (and maybe the other ones as well!)

Dream big in 2024! All those dreams won't come to fruition, but don't let that stop you. And see what joy comes just from imagining the dreams themselves!

Peace on the journey, *Deacon Allison*



2023 Rise Against Hunger Update—The food we packed on Sat., April 29th last year was sent to the country of Burundi. Thank you to everyone who took part in helping to feed people in East Africa!

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.



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

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. January programming will be January 7th and 21st!

1st Communion Orientation: Sunday, January 14th at 9:30am in the sanctuary, there is 1st communion orientation for 1st communion classes from January through March. These classes are open to 2nd graders and above who would like to learn about 1st communion and instruction!

Parents are invited to attend a monthly small group held by Kelsey, in the Prayer Croner Room, at 9:30am. Dates below: Jan. 21st, 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 January 7th at 5pm 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!

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service—Monday, Jan. 15th: All ages are invited to carpool with Kelsey down to United Lutheran Seminary for a synod-wide day of service from 9am - 3pm (8:15am meet at Grace) on Monday, January 15th. Parents, if you're interested in coming & helping carpool, please see Kelsey!

Mark your Calendars for a Pancake Dinner! ELCA Youth and Young Adult Gathering attendees are providing a pancake dinner on Fat Tuesday, February 13th in the social hall of Grace! Mark your calendars! More information to come!



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

 **Calling All Counters**—we are in need of 2-4 volunteers to help assist in counting money from the weekly collection. This task typically takes less than an hour following the late service. You will be asked to help in a 5-6 week rotating schedule so looking at 10-11 times each year. Following Covid we lost several teams and would really appreciate the help to lessen the burden on all. Please contact Phyllis at the church office with your desire to help or contact Kurt Meyers. Thank You!

OFFERING
COUNTERS

Help Wanted - We're looking for 5-6 volunteers to join our Altar Teams. The goal is to add another volunteer to each of the 6 teams. This will add much needed flexibility which will help to cover vacations, absences & holidays. The tasks are easy, the commitment minimal, but the final results are pretty rewarding. If you're interested, please contact Joy Fraunfelter or the church office.



Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey



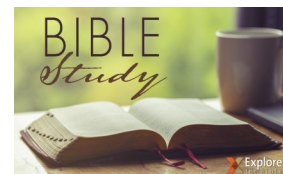
Adult Faith Formation Opportunities—Sunday Mornings at 9:15am

Weekly - Richard Harshaw's group continues to meet in the Choir Room (L04)
- 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. This month, Deacon Allison will be leading a session on Epiphany. Just who were those Wise Men, anyway? Join us between services on January 7th. We'll meet in the parlor between services at 9:15 am.

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 7pm via Zoom and Thursday mornings at 10am in the parlor (room L05). We will complete our study of the Gospel of Matthew at the end of February 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

YouTube Channel: [gracelutheranroyersford](https://www.youtube.com/gracelutheranroyersford)

Facebook search: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church

Email: gracelutr@verizon.net

Instagram search: [grace.lutheran.royersford](https://www.instagram.com/grace.lutheran.royersford)

Twitter search: [@gracelutheran12](https://twitter.com/gracelutheran12)
