

*April 2024*  
**Graceful Greetings**



**APRIL 2024 WORSHIP SERVICES**

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



Sunday, April 7—2nd Sunday of Easter  
 Sunday, April 14—3rd Sunday of Easter  
 Sunday, April 21—4th Sunday of Easter  
 Sunday, April 28—5th Sunday of Easter

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.

**Upcoming Community Outreach Events -**

**Perkiomen Watershed Stream Cleanup 4/13**

**PA primary elections 4/23 - must be 17 to be a student volunteer  
 (18+ to be a registered voter)**

**St. Mary's Shelter Week of July 8th thru July 12th (Monday thru Friday)**

**Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy** <https://www.perkiomenwatershed.org/>

The Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy is dedicated to serving the people and communities of the Perkiomen Watershed by conserving and protecting land and water resources through commitment to and leadership in environmental education, watershed stewardship, and conservation programs.

Every year they facilitate the largest waterway cleanup on the east coast. Danielle Lau is a site leader for a Royersford location. Below is the info on this year’s cleanup:

When: April 13, 2024 9am-12pm

Location: Spring-Ford 7th Grade Center

833 S Lewis Rd #2, Royersford, PA 19468

Park in the lot to the left-hand side as you enter the school. Lots of ground to cover so split up! Collect trash throughout the campus, paying attention to the wooded area behind the school and the area next to 422. Pile trash in the parking area. Ages 3 and up

**Elections:** If anyone 17+ would like to learn more about our election process & volunteer for a full or ½ day to work the election as a poll worker or constable please reach out to [Dlau751@gmail.com](mailto:Dlau751@gmail.com) 215-908-7446. Volunteers must be students or registered voters. All political parties are encouraged to participate.

**Meals for St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter for Homeless Families:** Every year members of Grace pick two weeks and cook for the families at St. Mary's. If you are interested in cooking a whole meal or part of a meal please reach out to Danielle Lau. [Dlau751@gmail.com](mailto:Dlau751@gmail.com) 215-908-7446

Week of July 8th thru July 12th (Monday thru Friday)

Week of October 7th thru October 11th (Monday thru Friday)





Sisters and Brothers of Grace,

This is a time when we can sense the rise of new things.

We have celebrated Easter, the grand celebration of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, the ultimate new thing. Around my house a variety of plants are beginning to poke up through the ground. I have switched out my winter clothes for my summer collection. And Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church has established a Call Committee.

The members of the Call Committee are Jack Perry, Chair; Angela Feist, John Salamone, Jackie Perry, Bud Meredith, and Trish McGarry. They are under the guidance of the Conference Dean, Pastor Chris McKinstry (St. James Lutheran, Limerick) and have begun their important and sensitive work.

They will confidentially review the documents of pastoral candidates provided by the Office of the Bishop. Interview the pastoral candidates they wish to know more deeply. Eventually, identify one of the pastoral candidates, who they will refer to the Council. The Council will then interview this pastoral candidate and if the Council concurs THEN the Council will publicly share the name of the pastoral candidate and arrange a time for them to lead worship, meet the staff, and greet you.

After all of that, the Council will establish the date for a Call Vote, at which meeting the membership will vote to extend a call for this pastoral candidate to become Grace's next pastor.

This is indeed a time of new things. Please be patient with the process and keep the members of the Call Committee and their work in your regular prayers.

Peace in Christ <>< *Pastor Wayne*

### **Rise Against Hunger Registration**

See Deacon Allison's page (next page) for details!

**Help Grace raise \$1500 for Rise Against Hunger** by contributing to the jar on the window in the back of the church or at the 6th Ave. entrance.

When we hit our goal of \$1500, staff will host a Feast of Fools worship!

Let's be generous and Rise Against Hunger! We will collect until Sunday, April 14th.



**Our next Handel's Ice Cream—Rise Against Hunger Fundraiser is Thursday, April 18th, from 1-9pm**, 20% of the total purchases will be donated. You must present a flyer or a picture of the flyer on your phone, for us to get the percentage. Look for flyers at the 6th Ave. entrance or in the Narthex.



## From the Deacon's Desk: Being a Deacon Part One – What is a Deacon?

As we transition to a new pastor, it seemed like a good time for a refresher on what it means that I am a Deacon (and not a pastor) here at Grace.

The role of Deacon in the ELCA came from the joining of three separate rosters: Diakonal Ministers, Deaconesses, and Associates in Ministry (AIMs). (Before the joining, I was in the latter roster). The new roster that was created is called the Ministry of Word & Service (rather than Word & Sacrament, which is the roster for pastors).

There were multiple reasons for the creation of the new roster, but the most prominent was that this puts us now in line with our ecumenical partners (Episcopal, Methodist, etc.) who also have the roster of deacon.

Both pastors and deacons are called to preach the Word of God, but there are differences between the two that are important to know. Pastors are called to shepherd and lead congregations and also to administer the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion. Deacons are called to have one foot in the church and one foot in the world in service.

Deacons serve many roles in the ELCA and the roster is still one that we are all growing into as it is still a fairly new one. Many serve in social service organizations; as chaplains; or in various administrative functions at ELCA agencies. Others serve in congregations in a variety of roles.

Next time...what it means that I am a deacon specifically at Grace.

Peace on the journey, *Deacon Allison*

**Rise Against Hunger Registration**—Sign-ups began for our April 27<sup>th</sup> packing event on **Tues., March 12<sup>th</sup> and will be open through Fri., April 12<sup>th</sup>.** Here's what you need to know for registering:



**First:** Please indicate in the drop-down box which "team" (congregation) you are part of. (Grace Lutheran Church)

**Second:** You do not need to pay attention to the "amount raised" number. That is for how much is raised via the online portal. You are, however, welcome and encouraged to make a donation on the portal.

**Third:** Please click the box(es) of the times you are signing up for. There is a box for set up, the packing shift, and clean up. Please consider staying to help clean up.

**Fourth:** Family members don't need to be signed up separately. One person signs up and indicates how many you are bringing along.

**Fifth:** There is a waiver at the bottom of the registration. By signing up you are agreeing to it. Registration will close on April 12<sup>th</sup> or when we reach 100 volunteers, whichever comes first.

If you are unable to register via the portal, please let Deacon Allison know and she will register you. You will need an email address in order to register.

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## 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. April programming will be April 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Parents are invited to attend a monthly small group** held by Kelsey, in the Prayer Croner Room, at 9:30am. Dates below: 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 March 3rd from 6-7:30pm they are invited to High School Youth Group in the social hall!

**Rise Against Hunger Fundraiser** - Mark your calendars to help pack 20,000+ meals through Rise Against Hunger for those in serious need on April 27th! Help Grace raise \$1500 for Rise Against hunger by contributing to the jar on the window in the back of the church. When we hit our goal of \$1500, staff will host a Feast of Fools worship! Let's be generous and Rise Against Hunger! We will collect until Sunday, April 14th. Stay tuned for packing event sign up information!

**Box City** - 6th - 12th graders are invited to participate in Box City, an annual event to raise awareness (and money) for homelessness. Registration cost is \$20. We encourage you to fundraise at least \$100 for Beacon of Hope in Pottstown. Saturday, April 6th from 3pm - Sunday, April 7th at 12pm at Advent Lutheran Church in Harleysville. Registration forms can be found in the confirmation classroom! You will need to provide your own box to sleep in

**AGAPE is in town!** Join our synod (Southeastern PA Synod) in welcoming Agape, a Christian Rap artist, and Joe Davis, a spoken word poet on Sunday, April 14th at 4pm! Together, these two create amazing music and art as well as do anti-racism work. Tickets are \$25 a person and will go towards the synod Youth Scholarship fund! Located at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale!

**Strunk Fund** Applications are now open! Seniors in high school and college students (who have been confirmed) are invited to apply for this scholarship. Deadline is May 31st. See the office or Kelsey for more details on how to apply.



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

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## Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey

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



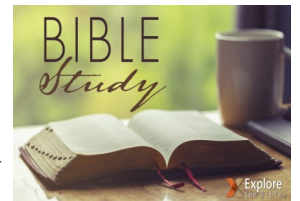
Richard Harshaw's group continues to meet in the Choir Room (L04) at 9:15 am.

Judy Stryker's group meets on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in the parlor (L05). They are finishing up *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor and will begin a new study following it. Stay tuned for information on what that will be!

**The Adult Forum on April 7<sup>th</sup> will be titled "Seven Resurrection Stories."** Pastor Wayne will lead this session in the parlor (L05).

**Morning Grace Daily Devotions** may be found at [allisonwilcox.com](http://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 7:00 pm via Zoom & Thursday mornings at 10:00 am in the parlor (room L05). We are continuing our look at the Letter to the Ephesians through the end of April, and then will move to a study of Colossians. 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](mailto:deaconallison12@gmail.com), to learn more about membership at Grace. Our next information class will begin soon.

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### Stay "connected" wherever you go! We're all over social media!!

**Website:** [www.gracelutheranroyersford.com](http://www.gracelutheranroyersford.com)

**Email:** [gracelutrn@verizon.net](mailto: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)



**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.

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**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](mailto: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.



