

July 2024
Graceful Greetings



July 2024 WORSHIP SERVICES

Our Combined Summer Worship Services are at 9:30am



Sunday, July 7—7th Sunday of Pentecost
 Sunday, July 14—8th Sunday of Pentecost
 Sunday, July 21—9th Sunday of Pentecost
 Sunday, July 28—10th Sunday of Pentecost

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.

The Church office will be closed on Thursday & Friday, July 4th & 5th, for the Independence Day Holiday. Phyllis will be on vacation the week of July 8th and our own Katie Leonard will be managing the office that week. Please be patient, kind and gracious as Katie fills in.



Upcoming Community Outreach Events -

Meals for St. Mary's Franciscan Shelter for Homeless Families: Each year Grace members pick 2 weeks & cook for the families at St. Mary's. If you're interested in cooking a whole meal or part of a meal please reach out to Danielle Lau.

Dlau751@gmail.com or 215-908-7446. Our weeks this year are July 8th - 12th & October 7th - 11th (Mon. - Fri.)

F4 (Fiorenza's Food For Friends) picks up (2) homemade frozen casseroles the second Saturday of every month. These meals are used to support the hungry and unhoused in Kensington. If **you** would like more information please reach out to Danielle Lau.

The Royersford Fire Department is looking for volunteers for their Chicken BBQ fundraiser on Saturday, August 3rd.

CHICKEN BBQ



There are two shifts available:

10 am - 12noon(ish) - - shucking corn (outside), food prep and packing (inside)

3pm - until it is over - - set-up; further packing/bagging of food (including the chicken); passing out the food; clean-up, area break-down, etc.

The RFD does so much for this community & could use our support! To volunteer, please contact gwezel84@gmail.com.



My blessed Siblings in Christ,

Grace recently sponsored a table at the Chester County Pridefest event in Phoenixville. We had wonderful encounters with over 700 people, heard stories, gave out bottled water, and shared Christmas tree ornaments. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped in various ways, especially Danielle Lau and her family, and the Crafty Ladies for their help with the ornaments.

Some of the people we met shared their surprise that so many different churches were participating, because their experiences with churches had not been nice, nor affirming. In fact, some of their experiences had been downright hostile. It makes me sad. How it must hurt the Lord we serve, who knows no strangers and shuns no one, and who patiently teaches the disciples to do likewise. Everyone we meet, have met, or will ever meet is beloved by God, even the ones we don't understand, and those we don't like. The truth is every set of eyes we see belong to a person God created and loves.

We are living in a time which seems more and more hostile. A time in which many have come to believe "others" need to be controlled, handled, and subdued, by force if necessary. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus told the disciple to put away his sword, and he healed the ear of the assaulted man. Violence will never end violence. God knows this, so God sent Jesus to love us into a new way of living. The transformation is not fast, it often takes a long time, like that perfect summer tomato or fall apple, but God is relentless. God will never give up, and eventually love will overcome everything.

Peace in Christ <>< *Pastor Wayne*

YOUTH NEWS



Calling all parents and kids: You are invited to summer programming at Grace! June - August on the 1st & 3rd Sunday's of the month, from 8:30-9:15am. Youth are invited to participate in service projects!

Parents, on the 1st Sunday of each month, you're invited to meet with Kelsey in the All-Purpose Room and sit with other parents to talk about the highs & lows of parenting, with a Christian foundation. Kids will be in the Welcome center doing service work!

On the 3rd Sunday, we invite parents to serve alongside your kids!

We'll meet on the following dates: July 7th & 21st, August 4th & 18th

Prek-6th graders are invited to attend SCUBA VBS at Grace, Sun., Aug. 4 - Thurs., Aug. 8, from 6-8pm! Note the new dates!! Register at this link: <https://vbspro.events/p/5e7978>

We also invite YOU, the congregation, to help with our Operation Kid-to-Kid project, alongside our VBS attendees! Help us raise \$2,500 to build a well for a community that needs access to water through ELCA World Hunger! You can put your donation in the welcome center gallon water jug and watch us reach our goal with the help of those who will attend (and donate) during our VBS! We want to reach our goal by August 11th!

Grace will adventure this summer to New Orleans July 13-20 for the ELCA youth gathering! We invite you to follow along with our journey through the youth blog post on our website!



From the Deacon's Desk: Engaging with the Other

One of the blessings of being part of a church community is the breadth of ideas, backgrounds, and stories that we all bring with us. One of the most difficult parts of being part of a church community is the breadth of ideas, backgrounds, and stories that we all bring with us. As with much of life, two opposing things can be true at the same time.

In this very polarizing election year, we are tempted to avoid talking to each other about the issues that are important to us and the beliefs we have about those issues and the candidates. Why is that? Why do those of us in God's family avoid talking to each other about topics that are central to our lives? Where are the places and who are the people we turn to instead to discuss these things? What are the sources that inform our views? Who are the people we see as other based on our views?

For the adult forums in July and August we'll have an open conversation about what it means to be a person of faith who has opposing ideas from another person of faith. We'll also spend time teasing out what the issues are that are central to our ELCA denomination, and hopefully gain a new understanding of the people we disagree with and those who we see as other.

I hope you will join me on July 14th and August 11th for what I hope will be engaging and helpful conversations.

Peace on the journey, *Deacon Allison*

Assisted Listening System 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.



Mark your calendars now and make plans to join us for a special visit from our ELCA Missionary to Costa Rica, Stephen Deal. Stephen will be joining us on Tuesday evening, August 20th, at 6:30pm, for a visit and to catch us up on how his work in Costa Rica is going. Grace Lutheran has supported Stephen & his wife Marta for many years and it has been awhile since we have had a visit...you won't want to miss it! More details to follow.

School Supply Drive for Laurel House. June 30th-July 28th Grace will be hosting a school supply drive to support 50 children impacted by domestic violence. The items collected will be used for the National Night Out backpack packing event on August 6th. There is an Amazon wish list which can be viewed using the following link—

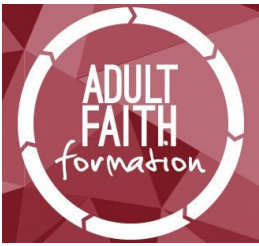
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/37ELYQLFSODPH?ref_=wl_share.



The following items are being requested: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, pocket folders, binders, pencil cases, index cards, pencil sharpeners, single subject spiral notebooks, lunch boxes, backpacks, dividers with tabs, composition notebooks.

Any questions please reach out to Danielle Lau.

Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey



Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

Bible Studies: Bible Study groups are breaking for the summer. We'll begin again the week of September 9th.

Sunday morning Adult Faith Formation & Fellowship:

Richard Harshaw's group will continue to meet sporadically in the Choir Room (L04), at 9:15 am over the summer.

Judy Stryker's group is on break for the summer.

Deacon Allison began a lectionary study last month following the service. Join her to discuss any questions you have from the day's readings & sermon. We'll meet immediately following the service in the parlor (L05). Note that we will not meet on July 7th due to 4th of July weekend or July 28th due to the Honor our Treasures event.

There are two remaining Adult Forums this summer. We will meet on the 2nd Sunday of July and August at from 8:30 am to 9:15 am in the Parlor (L05). The topics will be:
Sunday, July 14th – Engaging with those who think differently from us, Part 1
Sunday, August 11th – Engaging with those who think differently from us, Part 2.

Faith First – Last Wednesday of the Month: Join Deacon Allison this summer on the last Wednesday morning of the month at 8 am at The Main Street Café for breakfast and devotions. All are welcome to come and be fed in body and spirit! Mark your calendars! These are our remaining meeting dates:

July 31st, 8 am (note that this is the 5th Wednesday of July)
August 28th, 8 am



Morning Grace has returned to daily devotions Monday through Friday. You can sign up to receive the devotions in your mailbox at <http://allisonwilcox.com/>.



CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS THIS SUMMER

When: 1st Sunday of the Month (July & Aug.), around 10:30 (after worship)

Where: In the Welcome Center **What:** Refreshments & Conversation

Why: Fun to visit with each other

How: Bring yourself & if able, bring a snack to share

Sign up on the poster in the 6th Ave. entrance

See you there! **Questions:** Contact Brenda Johnson 610-585-9824

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)
