

March 2025
Graceful Greetings



MARCH 2025 WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Sunday, March 2—Transfiguration of Our Lord
Wednesday, March 5—Ash Wednesday (Services at 11am & 7pm)
Sunday, March 9—1st Sunday of Lent
Sunday, March 16—2nd Sunday of Lent
Sunday, March 23—3rd Sunday of Lent
Sunday, March 30—4th 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.



Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5th. Grace Lutheran Church is offering two opportunities for worship which will include imposition of ashes. Please join us at 11:00am in the sanctuary for an abbreviated Ash Wednesday service or come for worship at 7:00pm in the sanctuary for a full version of the Ash Wednesday liturgy. On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance.

Marking our foreheads with dust. We acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world. Join our community in marking this important day in the Church Year.

In response to a question at the annual meeting...

If you want to make scheduled contributions to the church **without** using Simply Giving, that charges 2.75% on the amount of each donation, simply do online banking with your financial institution. You can select a frequency of weekly, monthly, or annual, along with the date of the transaction. I’ve done this with my bank for more than 10 years without any fees. It is quite easy & you can to make changes any time desired. Last year Grace was charged more than \$700 for donations through Simply Giving. Feel free to reach out to me at kmeyers413@verizon.net with questions or concern.



Dear Siblings in Christ,

“In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.” ~ Natalie Sleeth



As I write, the temperatures have been rather frigid this past week. Our local area is seeing more ice and snow this winter than in recent years giving us a workout with our snow shovels and ice scrapers. Thankfully, I recently saw colorful seed packets, colorful pots, and bags of soil showing up on store shelves. I find that there’s something about these signs of the coming growing season that bring a measure of much needed delight and hope in these final weeks of winter.

Opening a seed packet and sprinkling some tiny seeds into the palm of my hand, I begin to imagine the feel and smell of the rich, dark earth when I will gently poke these little seeds into the ground and cover them over with fresh dirt. I smile in anticipation as I envision the roots begin to take hold while tiny green leaves sprout and stretch upward into the sunshine and air. “Not too much longer,” I remind myself. The snow and ice will melt, and spring will come to reveal its season with sure signs of growth and new life.

It is with this kind of hopeful expectation that we are engaging a new Lenten season. We enter into this time that invites some measure of vulnerability on our part, which is a hard task, as we try to tell the truth about the brokenness in this world. A time to recognize the brokenness that includes being honest about the ways we fall short of loving our neighbors as ourselves and the life-denying realities that are playing out in the world. This is also a time to name the brokenness in our lives that not only includes, but takes seriously, the pain and suffering we and our loved ones have endured and mourned.

Jesus knows our sorrow. He died a human death on the cross. Our God knows our pain and, perhaps most especially, our grief—and in raising Jesus from the dead, has promised that death does not have the final word. We will begin and make our Lenten walk as Easter people who know the end of the story. God’s resurrection promise is ours already even if not yet fully realized. We tell the truth about our brokenness while holding onto hope that God’s healing mercy and love are already ours, and that God’s grace breaks into the broken places even now, whether or not we are able to see and name them.

Quiet, sleepy little seeds don’t generally look too lively when first planted, but in their season, God will reveal new life in them. All of creation rests in God’s promise in the cycles of creation that bring about transformation. May these signs of spring be a reminder of our expectant hope in our gracious God that transforms us, too, with the promise of new life.

Your sibling in Christ,

Pastor Leah



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.

**About this Lenten series -
“Everything in Between: Meeting
God in the Midst of Extremes”**

This series, inspired by the Narrative Lectionary (Year 3), allows the Gospel of Luke to guide us through Lent. Beginning with Jesus setting his face toward Jerusalem

(Luke 9:51), the series flows through several familiar stories—the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the fruitless fig tree, the Lost Sheep, Zacchaeus, and more. Many of these

stories are well-known in both sacred and secular imagination, carrying cultural relevance and lore. For example, have you ever identified yourself as either a “Mary” or a “Martha?” The “Good Samaritan” title alone could reference a hospital, a Charitable organization, a type of law, or a good deed. Perhaps you grew up singing “Zacchaeus was a wee little man” in Sunday School. So many of these scriptures hold significance in pop culture, church history, politics, and everything in between.

As we studied these scriptures, we were struck by how Jesus’ ministry was rooted in relationships that disrupted the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. As modern readers, we sometimes lose the “shock factor” behind Jesus’ words, as his teaching tactics likely felt extreme for those in his context. He describes a stigmatized Samaritan as a good neighbor. He emphasizes the value of 1 sheep in a herd of 100. He dines with a tax collector who amassed wealth through extortion. While dying on the cross, he tells a convicted criminal he will soon find paradise. In these narratives, Jesus intentionally highlights the cultural and political polarities of his time to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God. When we study these stories in their historical and cultural context, we see how they mirror the cultural and political divides many of us experience in our families, churches, and communities today.

This series is an invitation to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. Each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like “faith & works” or “rest & growth,” or “grief & hope.” We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We find that these dichotomies are false. We might begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. We might find that God is present in between.

And so, this season, we invite you to look beyond black and white binaries and easy answers. We encourage you to notice the dichotomies that define our lives, but also imagine where God might be meeting us beyond the categories we create. This theme may resonate with anyone who is in discernment or trying to find their way through an undefined space. It will speak to anyone who feels as if they are living in a divided world. It is for those who seek a spiritual life that engages with complexity instead of avoiding it. This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.





From the Deacon's Desk: Where do we meet Jesus?

On Sunday, February 16th, the gospel reading was from Luke's Sermon on the Plain. This was Jesus honoring the poor, the hungry, the grieving. This was Jesus honoring the ones who usually get forgotten. And there were woes too - warnings to those who are the ones doing the forgetting; warnings to those who are used to being the ones honored.

Do we meet Jesus on this plain? As Jesus blesses the outcasts of the world from this level place, is he calling us to meet him there? This question has much relevance today as we all may know people who have been directly impacted by the recent flurry of executive decisions from the current administration. Do you know someone who has been impacted? A federal employee? A teacher? A research scientist dependent on government grants? An asylum seeker waiting for a green card? A senior worried about losing Medicare benefits?

How can we stand alongside Jesus to meet those who need blessings more than ever?

The beatitudes calls us to walk in solidarity with those who are on the margins - letting our relationship with them bring us blessing. When we meet them where they are and offer our support, prayers, love, and voices, we are meeting Jesus there on the plain.

+ Peace! Deacon Allison

YOUTH NEWS



G.R.A.C.E Place will be March 2nd and March 16th.

Mark your calendars now and join us for VBS from July 13th - July 17th on an Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains. racing rivers & glistening glaciers pointing you towards Jesus, learning he is a faithful friend that can always be trusted and is your True North.

Summer Mission Trip 2025: We're heading to Lutherridge in Aden, NC (near Asheville, NC) to help flood recovery from Hurricane Helene. This ELCA Lutheran Christian Camp sustained significant damages to their property & needs our help with cleanup and reconstruction. Trip dates" July 13-18, 2025. More information to come.

We're asking for candy donations for our Easter Egg Hunt on April 13th. Candy must be individually wrapped and fit into an Easter egg. Donations can be dropped off at the church office.



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

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/channel/UC...)

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

Facebook search: [Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church](https://www.facebook.com/GraceEvangelicalLutheranChurch)

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

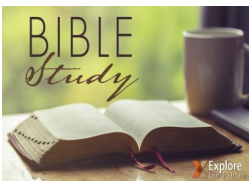
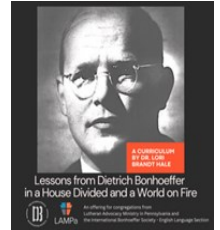
Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey



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

Weekly - Richard Harshaw's group meets in the Choir Room (L04) at 9:15am for topical conversations on faith and life, and for a time of fellowship.

Deacon Allison continues to lead a study called: *Lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in a House Divided and a World on Fire*. This study looks at the life and work of this important Lutheran theologian, martyr, and hero of faith, and how we can learn from him today. Our last sessions will be on 2/23, 3/2, 3/9 (with a possible additional date of 3/16). Following this series, Judy Stryker's book group will resume.



Bible Study groups are studying Part 2 of Acts. We meet on Mondays at 7pm via Zoom and Thursdays at 10am in the Parlor (L05). (note: both groups are on separate weeks of material currently).

If you'd like to attend the Monday evening Zoom, contact Deacon Allison at deaconallison12@gmail.com and she'll send you the link.

Faith First – Join us for breakfast devotions and fellowship at Main Street Café. We meet on the last Wednesday of the month at 8:30 am. **Our next gathering will be on Wednesday, March 26th.** Hope to see you there!



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



Deacon Allison's Daily Prayer Devotions are back! Deacon Allison has resumed the Morning Grace Devotional blog. You can read it here: <http://allisonwilcox.com/>. You may also subscribe to receive a devotion by email Monday through Friday.

Lenten Devotional Booklets will be available in the narthex and 6th Avenue entrance beginning on Ash Wednesday. You may also read the devotions on Morning Grace at allisonwilcox.com.

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.



March Worship Assistants

Thank you all for your service!



Trustee—Mark Esslinger

Altar Guild Team—McGarry, Thomson & Brown

Counting Teams

3/2	3/9	3/16	3/23	3/30
Meyers/Troiano	Matzke/Harshaw	Shiley/Fritz	Brown/Henson	Shiley/Fritz

<u>Reader(s)</u>	3/2	3/9	3/16	3/23	3/30
8:15	G. Pouchan	M. Rehrer	T. Weikel	S. Matzke	Lau Family
10:30	T. McGarry	W. Moyer	K. Petel	M. Salamone	J. Fraunfelter

Ash Wednesday—Joy Fraunfelter

Children's Sermon (10:30 only)

3/2	3/9	3/16	3/23	3/30
Darrell	Jack	Pastor Leah	Brenda	Tina

<u>Tech Table</u>	3/2	3/9	3/16	3/23	3/30
8:15	Paul	Dan	Jackie	Paul	Jackie
10:30	Austin	Rick	Dave	Austin	Jim

Ash Wednesday 7pm—Jim

Communion Assistants

3/2—8:15	G. Peak	10:30	J. Fraunfelter, C. Ferguson, D. Fritz & B. Johnson
3/9 —8:15	J. Perry	10:30	D. Lewis, T. Meredith, G. & C. Peteritas
3/16—8:15	K. Reese	10:30	K. Petel, M. Rehrer, K. Mills & w. Moyer
3/23—8:15	J. Curran	10:30	M. Satryan, M. Alloway, K. Brown & K. Thomson
3/30—8:15	S. Firering	10:30	G. Eynon, C. Ferguson, D. Fritz & B. Johnson

Ash Wednesday—Joy Fraunfelter

Ushers

3/2—8:15	B. Johnson and J. & C. Campbell	10:30	G. Eynon & C. Peteritas
3/9 —8:15	M. Rehrer & S. Firering	10:30	D. Fritz & K. Brown
3/16—8:15	J. Stoddard & G. Peak	10:30	G. Straface & T. Jordan
3/23—8:15	R. Pennypacker & J. Stryker	10:30	C. Ferguson & D. Murphy
3/30—8:15	T. Weikel & S. Firering	10:30	M. & T. McGarry

<u>Acolytes</u>	3/2	3/9	3/16	3/23	3/30
8:15	Drew Mazur				
10:30			Brady Burgoon	Tyler Weaner	

(Changes to this schedule may occur after printing; assistants should be alert for updates.)

MARCH Prayer Focus



1. Happiness/Share A Smile Day
2. Readers/National Read Across America Day
3. Our country/ National Anthem Day
4. GIs/Hug a GI Day
5. ASH Wednesday /First day of Lent
6. Small Businesses/National Be Heard Day
7. World Day of Prayer
8. Women/International Women's Day
9. Daylight Savings Begins
10. International Day of Awesomeness
11. National Dream Day
12. Apples/Johnny Appleseed Day
13. Girl Scouts / Founded 1912
14. Celebrate Scientists Day
15. Good food/Popcorn Lover's Day
16. Butterflies/ Learn About Butterflies Day
17. The Irish. / St. Patrick's Day
18. Farming/National Agriculture Day
19. Nurses Day
20. The Seasons/Spring Equinox
21. World Poetry Day
22. Scientists. / Science Month
23. Puppies/National Puppy Day
24. National "Each Person is a Person of Worth" day
25. Struggle for Human Rights Day
26. Epilepsy Awareness Day
27. Those with Rosacea /Awareness Month
28. Pianists/ World Piano Day
29. Caring for your neighbor /Pay It Forward Day
30. Grace's Doctors / Doctor's Day
31. Farm Workers National Day

*Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
The Reverend Leah Woehr-Grande, Pastor
Deacon Allison Wilcox
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Royersford, PA 19468*

**DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 2025
ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS
IS Friday, March 14th**

Visit us on the web at www.gracelutheranroyersford.com
Email: GraceLutrn@verizon.net Church Office: 610.948.3684 Fax: 610.948.3304