

April 2025 Graceful Greetings



APRIL 2025 WORSHIP SERVICES

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

Sunday, April 6—One Service at 9:30am; Jesus Christ Superstar Sunday, April 13—Palm Sunday & Easter Egg Hunt Thursday, April 17—Maundy Thursday (7:00pm)
Friday, April 18—Good Friday (Noon & 7:00pm)
Sunday, April 20—Easter Sunday (6:30, 8:15 & 10:30am)
Sunday, April 27—2nd 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.



Join us on April 6, for one service at the 9:30am as we enjoy the music and message of Jesus Christ Super Star! Bring your friends! Due to copyright concerns, this service will not be livestreamed.

Holy Week & Easter Services:

Palm Sunday - The Passion—Sun., April 13 - 8:15 & 10:30am Procession and Blessing of the Palms, Passion Reading & Holy Communion - Sanctuary



9:15am - Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt: Welcome Center

Maundy Thursday—April 17 at 7:00pm: Preaching, Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar-Sanctuary

Good Friday—April 18, 2019 at 7:00pm: Passion Reading with music, poetry and video clips in the Sanctuary



APRIL 20, 2025—EASTER SUNDAY THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

SUNRISE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION— 6:30am on the front lawn FESTIVAL SERVICES OF HOLY COMMUNION—8:15 & 10:30am in the Sanctuary

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, April 21st.

This Lenten Season, we've been hearing these words each week in worship as part of the dismissal: "God is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between." I believe this promise with my whole heart—that no matter what we face or experience, God is always with us even when we cannot perceive it.

This past month, our faith community experienced God-with-us in the mountains and God-with-us in the valleys in the same weekend. On a Friday in early March, we grieved and wept as we accompanied one of our eldest saints as he completed his baptismal journey and entered into God's eternal love and care. Then on Sunday, we celebrated with joy and delight as we welcomed one of our youngest saints into the body of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism and rejoiced that his baptismal journey has now begun. Surely, God is with each one of us in the community of faith as we rejoice and as we mourn: expressions that are holy and sacred, as we lean in deeply to God's promises poured out in the baptismal waters—promises of God's faithfulness in all matter of things.

Even in the ordinary places of our lives—the in between places of everyday life—there's always the invitation to pause and take a breath with intention and mindfulness that God is near. I wonder, how you may have experienced or sensed this promised nearness of God? How have you encountered God's grace, mercy, and peace for you this past month? What ordinary or extraordinary places have you recently walked that were most certainly holy ground? I look forward to hearing from you about your encounters with God on the mountains, in the valleys, and everything in between as you feel moved to share them.

I will close with these words of hope and promise for our whole life through from the baptismal hymn, "Borning Cry" by John C. Ylvisaker:

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold. I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong. If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun. When the evening gently closes in and your shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.

Thanks be to God for being with us in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between!

Your partner in the gospel,

Pastor Leah



From the Deacon's Desk: Empathy & Compassion

You don't much hear the word "empathy" in the news, but lately it's been all over. And it's been all over in troubling ways. A book has been written about "toxic empathy," and if you go to certain news sources, you'll find pastors and others nodding to that idea. That's completely disheartening, because one of the most notable things about Jesus when he walked this earth, was his empathy.

Theologian Pete Enns explains that while empathy and compassion are not exactly the same thing, they are intricately related. Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings, sufferings, and pain of another. Compassion is when we act on that empathy - to walk beside someone and try to help heal their suffering. Compassion's literal definition is "to suffer together."

There were no limits to the empathy Jesus felt and the compassion he showed, nor to whom he showed them. He regularly dined with sinners and spoke of their place in the Kingdom. He healed the sick of all kinds, including those who were even the enemies of his Jewish people. He showed compassion to a woman accused of sinning, whose life he saved from stoning. He promised a condemned thief he would join him in paradise.

That compassion took Jesus all the way to the cross and to resurrected life.

The Apostle Paul famously told the Corinthian church that love - agape love - was the most important quality of all for Jesus' followers. Agape love is compassion in its highest form.

There are no limits to empathy or compassion. It is not toxic. It is the very foundation of our faith and what we are most called to live out.

+ Peace! Deacon Allison

Save the Date for a Lorraine's Hearing Fund Fundraiser—this fund provides financial assistance to individuals diagnosed with a hearing impairment.

WHEN: Thursday, May 8th HOURS: 10 am - 9 pm

WHERE: Giovani's Pizza & Restaurant, 466 Main Street, Royersford, PA Why cook when you can have lunch, a date night, or a meal out with family and friends. Have someone else cook & clean up while helping to raise money for a great

cause. A portion of the day's proceeds will be donated to LHF.



Our Prayer List Coordinator Becky Leonard has decided to retire from this position. Becky helped keep our church family connected & growing, through her willingness to take your prayer requests, for a number of years. We thank Becky for her service and ministry. If you have a prayer request or update, please call the church office at 610-948-3684 and leave a message. Thanks for sharing your joys & concerns and praying for others and thanks again to Becky.

Prayer Lists are available at the 6th Ave. & Narthex information tables. Please take a list home with you to enhance your daily devotions & prayer life. Prayer lists name our concerns, joys & thanksgivings and are a way to stay connected to God & to the needs of others.



Congratulations and God's blessings to all who will receive their First Holy Communion on April 27th. Thank you to Sarah Nye & Carly Bauer, for faithfully teaching the joy & blessing of this sacrament. Please congratulate the class, as they receive God's grace through the body, and blood of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: Julianne Eynon, Noah Feist & Branson Klick.

<u>BAPTISM</u> — It was a joy to welcome Luciano Paul Vespaziani, son of Nicholas & Ashleigh Vespaziani and brother to big sister Lillianna, into God's family and the Grace family recently, through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. We share in the joy of his family & friends, as we celebrate another soul welcomed into the fold.



YOUTH NEWS

THE

G.R.A.C.E Place will not meet in April due to one service on 4/6 & Easter.

Join us for the Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday, 4/13 at 9:30, in the Welcome Center.

Come join us for 2025 VBS on July 13th through July 17th, on an Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers and glistening glaciers pointing you towards Jesus, learning he is a faithful friend and can always be trusted and is your True North.

Summer Mission Trip 2025: We're heading to Lutherridge in Aden, NC (near Ashville, 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.

Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 13th, 2024 from 9:30 to 10:15am. Please join us in the Welcome Center for some Easter fun and refreshments.

Calling all volunteers!!!!! We are looking for volunteers for VBS this summer and would love for your help. If you are interested and want to learn more on how you can help please email: cey.graceluthrn@gmail.com



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: gracelutrn@verizon.net

YouTube Channel: gracelutheranroyersford Instagram search: grace.lutheran.royersford Facebook search: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church Twitter search: @gracelutheran12

Check Out These Ways to Support Your Faith Journey

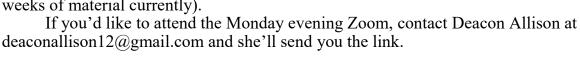
Adult Faith Formation Opportunities—Sunday Mornings at 9:15am

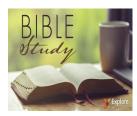


Weekly - Richard Harshaw's group meets in the Choir Room (L04) at 9:15am for topical conversations on faith and life, and for a time of fellowship.

Judy Stryker will be continuing a walk through the women of the Bible at 9:15 in the parlor.

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).







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

Interested in joining Grace? Contact Deacon Allison deaconallison 12@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.

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.



April Worship Assistants

Thank you all for your service!

Trustee—Glenn Peak

Altar Guild Team—Fraunfelter, Armstrong, Jordan & Lewis



Counting Teams

4/6 (9:30 only)4/134/204/27FraunfelterMatzke/HarshawMeyers/TroianoBrown/Henson

Reader(s) 4/6 (9:30 only) 4/13 4/20 4/27

Joy Fraunfelter

8:15 Trish McGarry Beth Matzke Anne Pennypacker

10:30 Joy Fraunfelter Mike Satryan Cindy Butler

Maundy Thurs.: Joy Fraunfelter & Jackie Perry Good Fri.: 7 Readers??

4/27 Sunrise: Lau Family

Children's Sermon (10:30 only)

4/6 4/13 4/20 4/27 D. Lewis Pastor Leah B. Johnson J. Claypotch **Tech Table** 4/6 (9:30 only) 4/13 4/204/27 Dan or Dave 8:15 Jackie Jackie Paul

10:30 Rick Austin Dave

Maundy Thurs.& Good Friday: Jim

Communion Assistants

4/6—(9:30 only) no communion/healing service

4/13—8:15 J. Kamertz 10:30 J. Fraunfelter, W. Moyer, K. Petel & D. Fritz

4/20—8:15 B. Johnson & K. Meyers 10:30 J. Fraunfelter, M. Satryan, G & C. Peteritas

4/27—8:15 G. Peak 10:30 K. Brown, G. Eynon. K. Thomson &M. Alloway

Maundy Thurs.: J. Fraunfelter Good Fri.: no communion

4/27 Sunrise: B. Johnson

Ushers

4/6—(9:30 only) Bud Meredith & Marcia Satryan

4/13—8:15 R. Pennypacker & T. Weikel 10:30 K. Thomson & G. Eynon

4/20—8:15 R. Harshaw & J. Stryker 10:30 K. & D. Lewis

4/27—8:15 J. Stoddard & G. Peak 10:30 G. Straface & C. Ferguson

Maundy Thurs.: T. Jordan & B. Johnson

Good Fri.: Noon—D. Murphy and C.& J. Campbell 7pm—D. Fritz & K. Brown

4/27 Sunrise: B. Johnson

Acolytes 4/6—(9:30 only) 4/13 4/20 4/27

8:15 Drew Mazur

10:30 Brady Burgoon

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

APRIL Prayer Focus

- 1. Hard workers/International Fun at Work Day
- 2. Math Teachers/Mathematics Education Month
- 3. God's creation/National Rainbow Day
- 4. Gardens/National Garden Month
- 5. Flowers/National Dandelion Day
- 6. Travelers/National Read A Road Map Day
- 7. Health/World Health Day
- 8. Work/Start of work week
- 9. Reading/Bookmobile Day
- 10. Brothers and Sisters/National Siblings Day
- 11. Our pets/National Pet Day
- 12. Our Jewish neighbors/Passover begins
- 13. Hosanna/ Palm Sunday
- 14. Uplifting Humor/International Moment of Laughter Day
- 15. End Of War/Persian Gulf War Ceasefire
- 16. Librarians/National Librarian Day
- 17. Maundy Thursday
- 18. Good Friday
- 19. Friends/National Hanging Out Day
- 20. Easter Sunday/He has risen!
- 21. All Kindergartens/ National Kindergarten Day
- 22. Earth Day/Look around and Thank God
- 23. Fresh Produce/National Zucchini Bread Day
- 24. Stay healthy/ World Immunization Week
- 25. Trees/ Arbor Day
- 26. German Heritage/National Pretzel Day
- 27. Conversation/Tell A Story Day
- 28. Read a poem/Great Poetry Reading Day
- 29. Dance/ International Dance Day
- 30. Honesty/Honesty Day

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

DEADLINE FOR THE MAY 2025
ISSUE OF GRACEFUL GREETINGS
IS Tuesday, April 15th

